

Jury on the Hill takes up positions for trial of the century

THE SENATE

AFTER A five-day helter-skelter of events that had pushed and jostled and raced each other into the news, political Washington was finally able to sit back yesterday, take a breath and consider the significance of what had happened.

The President had been impeached for only the second time in US history. The Democrats were united almost in defiant support of their leader; the Republicans were fending off meltdown for the second time in as many months. The political establishment was bitterly divided, and so was the country.

Even as Washington tried to relax, however, two competing developments were already in train. The methodical constitutional process was taking its course, preparing the way for the Senate trial that is the next and final stage of Mr Clinton's disgrace. And from the White House came the sounds of anxious wheeling-dealing in a last-ditch attempt to fend off the final - and irreversible - stage

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

of impeachment: the removal from office of the country's 42nd President, Bill Clinton.

Within an hour of Saturday's impeachment vote, the House of Representatives had appointed nine managers to oversee the charges against Mr Clinton, and they had physically carried the two approved articles of impeachment across the Capitol Rotunda to the Senate. The House thus completed its role in the impeachment of the President. According to the constitution, the Senate is now obliged to hold a trial.

Less than two hours later, Mr Clinton, arm in arm with his wife, Hillary, appeared in the White House rose garden to hail the support of a crowd of House Democrats and insist that he would work "to the last hour" of the last day of my term". He was flanked by his Vice-President, the still-wooden Al Gore, his almost cadaverously lean chief of staff, John Podesta, and

Clinton, backed by Hillary Clinton, vice president Al Gore and chief of staff John Podesta, pauses during his statement on Saturday. Reuters

the washed and brushed House minority leader, Dick Gephardt, an ensemble of solidarity that may or may not stand by him in the weeks to come.

Mrs Clinton, wearing an understated black trouser suit, had on her lapel the brooch that she had worn for her television interview back in January, when she had defended her husband and blamed a "vast right-wing conspiracy" for his troubles.

The golden eagle, holding a pearl in its talons, had become a tacit symbol among Democratic women of their support of the President. For Mrs Clinton to wear it on Saturday was to state that the Clintons were fighting on.

Mr Clinton indicated one direction of that fight, when he said that he hoped for a "constitutional and fair means of resolving this matter in a prompt manner". In other words, he was looking for a deal. The White House is said to have put out feelers across the political establishment in an attempt to find

any solution that would stave off a Senate trial.

In the three weeks before his impeachment at the hands of a fractious and combative House, the White House had started to sue for peace. They had spoken of compromise and deals, and on the day before the vote, Mrs Clinton in a rare recent intervention - had called for reconciliation.

The thrust of the Democrats' arguments, such as they were in the two-day House debate, also tended towards compromise, culminating in Mr Gephardt's eloquent, but frustrated plea for censure, rather than impeachment, in the last minutes of the debate.

In the rose garden, too, there was talk of olive branches and healing. Such pleas were not the strongest suit for the Democrats to present in the debate, but they might have a chance.

Some Republicans are believed to have voted for impeachment secure in the knowledge it was an indictment rather than a conviction and Mr

Clinton would probably survive. The Democrats warned them that a vote for impeachment should not be treated as a warning shot across Mr Clinton's bows.

There is, however, a question about how many Republicans would have voted for impeachment if their majority in the Senate were greater than its current 10, or if they had believed that they were voting to convict rather than charge.

Misgivings among Republicans about removing Mr Clinton from office may yet open the way for a motion of censure or for a solution that has become known as "censure-plus" - that would incorporate a stiff fine, running into millions of dollars, and an understanding that Mr Clinton could face criminal charges on similar counts (perjury and obstruction of justice) once he leaves office.

The Senate convenes for its new session on 6 January. A trial could commence as early as 11 January, but would probably take place later. One forecast is that it could be as short as a few days; another - that it

could last several months, depending on whether witnesses are called, and how many.

Among the intermediaries - in a poetic twist - is believed to be the man whom Mr Clinton defeated for the presidency in 1992: the former Republican Vice-President and former Senator, Bob Dole, who set out a five-point compromise two weeks ago and has the ear of senior Senators.

A two-thirds majority of the 100-strong Senate is needed for conviction, which would require 12 Democrats to vote with the 55 Republicans. Currently, that scale of defections looks unlikely. But Senators are regarded as wilful and quirky; at least two - Robert Byrd and Pat Moynihan - are sticklers for the Constitution and the law, and might change sides, taking others with them.

If, as in the House, the arguments move towards the high principles of a guardian of the law who lies under oath and away from "what did he touch and when did he touch it?", any vote could be closer than the White House would like. Which is why they will be investing so much effort over the holiday season in forging a deal.

WHAT NEXT FOR CLINTON?

1. Resignation
As the import of the impeachment vote sinks in, Mr Clinton loses the support of Congressional Democrats and the country and is persuaded, despite himself, to resign.

2. Forced Out
A Senate trial is held. Sufficient Democrat Senators are convinced of the gravity of the President's conduct and its harmfulness for the country and provide the two-thirds majority necessary to convict. The President is forced out and replaced by Al Gore.

3. Tried but Acquitted
A Senate trial is held. Mr Clinton's lawyers satisfy the Democrats that the offences cannot be proved. Their vote holds solid and Mr Clinton is acquitted; he remains in office. Like Andrew Johnson in 1868, he has been impeached, but not removed. He claims victory.

4. The Lame Duck
White House strikes a deal between now and the new Congressional session in January. The Senate convenes and immediately adjourns, accepting something tantamount to a presidential

plea-bargain entailing a strong censure, perhaps a fine, but no further punishment. Mr Clinton is wounded, but not slain.

5. Constitutional Fisticuffs
The White House fights on constitutional grounds, contesting, perhaps, the right of the Senate to try the President on the basis of charges approved by a House of Representatives whose mandate has expired and Representatives who were voted out of office (in the November elections) before they voted on impeachment. Long court fight ensues.



Judge with impeccable reactionary credentials

CHIEF JUSTICE REHNQUIST

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

TO SPEAK OF "Nixon's revenge" would be going a mite too far. But assuming President Clinton does undergo a full impeachment trial in the Senate early next year, the black-gowned presence of William Hubbs Rehnquist as judge and supreme arbiter of his fate, very symbolically in the span of a quarter-century, US politics has gone full circle.

Rehnquist was nominated to America's highest court by Richard Nixon in 1971 and, after stormy confirmation hearings, took his seat in January 1972. Two and a half years later, a Republican President with a rare capacity to inspire hatred among his political opponents was forced to resign in face of certain impeachment by a Democrat-controlled Congress. Playing a modest but not insignificant part in proceedings was a young staff member on the Watergate committee named Hillary Rodham, later Clinton.

As the country braces for the first impeachment trial of a President since 1968, roles have been uncannily reversed. Nixon's conservative appointee is now Chief Justice of the United States, the man who will act as judge to the jury of 100 senators.

This time it will be a Democratic President at odds with a Republican Congress - but a President who, like Nixon, contrives to inspire an almost irrational loathing among many of his political foes. Where Nixon saw a left-liberal plot against him, Rehnquist could be depicted as part of the so-called "right-wing conspiracy" to unseat Bill Clinton.

There are of course dissimilarities - most striking the contrast between the bipartisanship over Nixon which showed the American political process at its finest, and



William Hubbs Rehnquist: Unwavering conservative

today's vicious partisan hawking which threatens to make that process unworkable. One thing however may be said with confidence: there could not be a Chief Justice that Hillary Clinton would less like to see in charge of the trial of her wayward husband than the 74-year-old William Rehnquist.

For one thing he is an unwavering conservative. From his days as a Goldwater Republican practising law in Arizona, through his spell as head of the crucially important Legal Counsel's Office at Nixon's Justice Department, to his 27 years at the Supreme Court, Rehnquist has sat firmly on his side of the great cul-

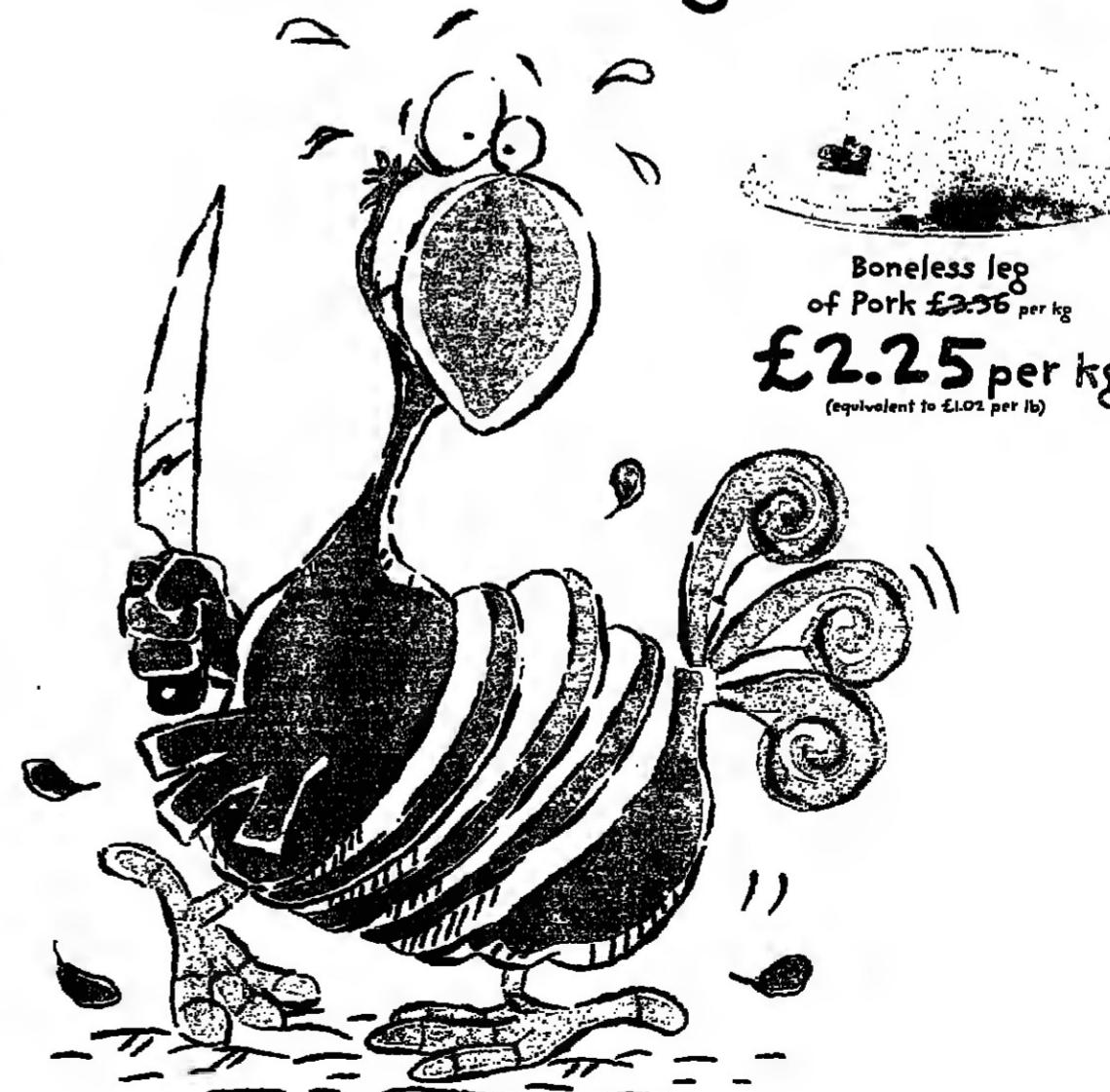
ture and political divide through American society. Famously, once appointed the Court, individual justices break free of the ideology for which they were picked; guaranteed tenure for life gives a man remarkable independence from the political patrons who gave him his job. Not however Rehnquist, bugbear of liberals for four decades.

Back in the 1960s he opposed school desegregation, backing "separate but equal" education for the races. At Nixon, he was a vigorous supporter of pre-trial detention, wiretapping, electronic surveillance and other paranoiacs of Nixon's "law-and-order" programme, soon

from there, for many liberals, it is a short jump to identifying the Chief Justice as the secret weapon in chief of Clinton-haters. He is a Republican friendly with, and from a comparable professional background to, Clinton's nemesis Kenneth Starr.

And indeed, it was Rehnquist who picked the right-wing North Carolina judge who headed the three-man panel which astonished neutrals in 1994 by choosing Starr to replace Robert Fiske, a moderate East Coast Republican as special prosecutor. A coincidence? Perhaps. But in today's suspicion-charged Washington, many will be scared inclined to believe it.

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4 THE IMPEACHMENT OF A PRESIDENT

The precedents of misdemeanour

Nixon: The man who cut and ran

WASHINGTON, 1974

"ONLY IF you've been in the deepest valley," booms an eerily familiar voice from the video screen, "can you know how magnificent it is to be on the highest mountain top." Comforting words, perhaps, for President Bill Clinton as he faces the humiliation of a Senate impeachment trial, particularly since they come from a former president uniquely placed to appreciate his predicament - Richard Nixon.

We are in the auditorium of the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace, in a remote corner of the sprawling Los Angeles suburbs, and the video being played is entitled, aptly enough, *Never Give Up*. Made a few years before Mr Nixon's death in 1994, it is a 28-minute orgy of rhetorical self-congratulation and justification for the traumatic events that led, in August 1974, to the first resignation of a US president.

Mr Nixon intones from beyond the grave about world peace and the spread of freedom, while skirting as best he can around the lying, cheating and abuse of federal institutions that led the judiciary committee of his time to draw up two articles of impeachment (he quit before they came before the full House).

Watergate takes up the single largest space in the library exhibition - a long wall of pictures, text and audio extracts from Mr Nixon's notorious White House tapes - but the scandal is presented in highly definitive tones as a political plot against an essentially honourable president.

Is this the way Bill Clinton will be forced to present his legacy to the world - a hollow exercise in saving face, in which the uncomfortable facts

BY ANDREW GUMBLE
in Yorba Linda, California

must somehow be manipulated to look less embarrassing? Or are the two cases so different that comparisons are meaningless? After all, faced by bipartisan belief that he should go, Mr Nixon did not even wait for the full House to vote upon impeachment. Once the House judiciary committee had voted a single article of impeachment, the men in grey suits were at the White House and, within a week, Marine One was lifting off from the White House lawn to carry him back home to California.

One thing is sure - of the many unrepentant Nixon fans who come to his library to pay homage, few display much sympathy for the way the current president is being treated. Many have trouble even calling Mr Clinton by his name.

"Nixon was just covering up for his group and his people. He didn't attack the whole fabric of society like... like this guy - I can't even call him 'president' any more," said George Shuster, a retired mortician from Connecticut and one-time Republican mayoral candidate.

"We put our sons and daughters in Washington as interns to teach them about this great system of ours. To have a man like that taking advantage - why, it's rotten to the core," Mr Shuster's wife saw even greater evil lurking behind the presidency. "Clinton has destroyed the military. The Russians and Asians Nixon fought are now living in the White House. Don't you think there's some kind of communism behind it all?"

A paranoid touch worthy of Tricky Dick himself, one might say. Particularly since public opinion is behind Mr Clinton in a way it never was for Mr Nixon. So strong is national opinion to impeach that only at places such as the Nixon Library can supporters be found in any number.

There are those who believe



Nixon leaving the White House for good in 1974; the Watergate building (top); the reporters who broke the scandal, Woodward and Bernstein; and 'Tricky Dick' resigns



the impeachment proceedings are little more than delayed revenge by the Republican majority in Congress for the treatment handed out to Nixon by his Democratic adversaries. Nobody at the Nixon Library was willing to assign such low motives to the Republicans, although plenty were happy to accuse the Democrats of putting politics before principle in 1974.

"I think Nixon got a raw deal," opined Joe Betz from Baltimore. "With him it was a political fight, unlike Clinton, who lies." President Clinton's purported lies are the reason most Nixonites think he deserves to be turfed out. But what about Mr Nixon's record? He was the man of whom Lyndon Johnson said: "He can lie out of both sides of his mouth at once. And even if he is telling the truth, he lies anyway, just to keep his hand in."

To be fair, some visitors thought Nixon got his just deserts. "He was a great statesman, but he also lied and

abused his power," said a San Diego policeman. "In my job, if I lie I'm fired immediately. The same goes for... what's his name."

Such reflections were not echoed by the staff of the library who in stark contrast to the more virulent-minded visitors, clearly understood the politics of pots and black kettles. "President Nixon always felt it was unfair to speak out against a sitting president," explained the

library's director of programming, Evie Lazzarino. "This institute aims to celebrate the presidency, not denigrate it."

To the amusement of many visitors, the library is hosting an exhibition on presidential romance - the matrimonial sort that is. Among the many artefacts, which go back to Lincoln, is Hillary Clinton's wedding gown. It gets plenty of comments, most of them unprintable. In the light of recent events, the exhibition comes of sounding remarkably optimistic about the health of both the Clinton presidency and the Clinton marriage. "On October 11, 2000, President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in the White House," announces the display above the First Lady's gown. Maybe one shouldn't be so sure.

Johnson: The man who stood and fought to stay in office

WASHINGTON, 1868

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

THE REPUBLICAN Congressman was talking about the American President born into poverty from the border South whom he detested with unflinching fury: that "ungrateful, despotic, besotted, traitorous man - an incubus".

Bill Clinton, you might imagine. In fact not. The giveaway is the Latin-derived word, *incubus*, relating a "nightmare" or "demon". In the 19th century, a knowledge of the classics still meant something. The object of the Congressman's loathing was the 17th President, Andrew Johnson, the last, and at least until today, the only occupant of the White House to be impeached - in 1868.

The two cases are different, not least because Johnson was a clumsy and tactless politician,

nowhere near the league of that eloquent and consummate political operator, William Jefferson Clinton. He was also untested, a Vice-President who had been promoted by accident three years earlier when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. But despite the space of 130 years and the 24 Presidents which separate them, they are remarkably similar.

Johnson came from Tennessee, a Confederate state, and though he had opposed secession, he sought a less punitive reconstruction for the vanquished South. He had begun life as a Democrat, and only became a Republican with the approach of the Civil War. Almost immediately upon entering the White House he fell foul of Congress,

where the Radical faction of the Republican Party, bent on maximum vengeance on the South, promoted financial aid for freed blacks, and a Civil Rights Act which in some instances would give them greater voting rights than whites. For Johnson, the measures were unfair and infringed states' rights. To the fury of the Radical Republicans, he vetoed them both.

The Congressional elections of 1868, in which Johnson sought to outflank his nominal allies by enlisting the support of northern Democrats brought him only defeat and crushing repudiation. The Republicans' hatred of Johnson only grew: in the words of one Cabinet member, they would have impeached him "had he been accused

of stepping on a dog's tail". Their chance came on 21 February 1868, when Johnson dismissed his Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, in defiance of a recent law stipulating that such steps required Congressional approval. No matter that the law was unconstitutional. The Radical Republicans went ahead, throwing in some other counts of conspiracy and bringing Congress into disrepute.

Here too parallels abound. Johnson's private life, like Clinton's, was less than pristine.

Today's 42nd President has been smeared by sexual scandal and lying to a Grand Jury to cover it up - but nothing to match the insinuations against Johnson, who, it was suggested, had arranged Lincoln's



Andrew Johnson, the first American President to be impeached

Camera Press

From the moment of madness to the moment of truth:

It's hard to believe now, but a year ago none of us had heard of Monica Lewinsky. She was just one of many ambitious young things who had done an internship at the White House. The "himbo eruption" on everybody's lips was Paula Jones, who was bringing a sexual harassment suit against the President, and a minor player in her case became the catalyst for his impeachment.

7 January 1998
Lewinsky testifies in Jones case



Called to testify in Paula Jones's sexual harassment case, Monica Lewinsky denies she ever had a sexual relationship with the President. She allegedly asks Linda Tripp, a friend and ex-White House employee, to lie for her as well. But Tripp has another agenda.

13 January
Tripp tapes chats with Lewinsky
Tripp wears a hidden microphone for the FBI and records intimate conversations with Lewinsky about the President. Subsequently, prosecutors ask Lewinsky to co-operate

18 January
Rumours fly on the Internet
Matt Drudge, the scandal monger of the Internet, reports that *Newsweek* has shelved an expose of an affair between Clinton and Lewinsky.

21 January
Existence of Tripp's tapes reported
The *Washington Post* reports the existence of the tapes that Tripp made of her chats with Lewinsky.

26 January
Clinton denies sexual relations with Lewinsky
The scandal has enveloped Washington and the world. With newspapers debating the President's demise, he denies having an affair with Lewinsky.

27 January
Hillary Clinton defends husband on television
Today

15 March
Kathleen Willey accuses Clinton of fondling
As Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, continues his investigation into the President's alleged peccadilloes, Kathleen Willey, another former White House

worker, accuses the President on television of fondling her by the door to the Oval Office.

2 April
Jones case dismissed
Paula Jones's sexual harassment case against the President is dismissed. Willey's claims fade without making much impact.

2 June
Lewinsky fires lawyer
After weeks of tense negotiations and impasse between Starr's office and Lewinsky, she replaces her high-profile lawyer, William Ginsburg. Starr hasn't managed to convince Lewinsky to testify, but his tentacles are spreading.

30 June 1998
Linda Tripp testifies before a Grand Jury

Linda Tripp testifies before a Grand Jury in Washington. She makes no public comments, but has already become one of the most unpopular women in America. Clinton's approval remains high.



18 JUN 1998

Strategy aims at endgame for Saddam

MILITARY OPTIONS

TONY BLAIR and Bill Clinton have laid out a new strategy towards Saddam Hussein aimed at containing him militarily and preparing for his end.

The most visible element of the new plan is the dispatch of the British aircraft carrier HMS *Invincible* to the Gulf. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said: "It is a very big signal - we are not going away, we remain vigilant."

The ship can mount air and land attacks, and carries up to 24 aircraft - usually a mix of Sea Harrier FA2 fighters, RAF Harrier GR7 bombers and Sea King helicopters.

The carrier, which has been refitted since serving in the Falklands, has a crew of 1,200 men and women.

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington
AND ANDREW GRICE

There are four main elements in the new strategy of containment, laid out by the US President on Saturday and the Prime Minister yesterday in virtually identical speeches. The first is the readiness to use force. "We will maintain a strong military presence in the area, and we will remain ready to use it if Saddam tries to rebuild his weapons of mass destruction, strikes out at his neighbours, challenges allied aircraft, or moves against the Kurds," Mr Clinton said.

The second element is the maintenance of sanctions. "We will sustain what have been

out Uncom on the ground providing intelligence. Again, all that is left is military force.

"If Uncom is not allowed to resume its work on a regular basis, we will remain vigilant and prepared to use force if we see that Iraq is rebuilding its weapons programmes," Mr Clinton said.

The third pillar is counter-proliferation - ensuring that Iraq does not develop its weapons of mass destruction.

This will be much harder with years of disbursing the \$97m agreed by Congress for military training and equipment. "We will intensify our engagement with the Iraqi opposition groups, prudently and effectively," Mr Clinton said.

The fourth is perhaps the most intriguing - the replacement of Saddam Hussein. "Over the long-term the best way to end the threat that Saddam poses to his own people in the region is for Iraq to have a different government," said Mr Clinton.

The US has already stepped up links with the Iraqi opposition, and had said it would work out before the end of the

hand, both countries have a lot to make and to mend with their allies in Europe, as well as Russia and China. "We are launching an intensive diplomatic process with other members of the Security Council," said Mr Blair, "with the countries of the region, with our European partners to forge a new strategy for stability in relations between the international community and Iraq."

He put much more weight on diplomacy in his speech than Mr Clinton did in his.

On the other, a continuing military presence in the Gulf will require great expenditure and a shift towards a much more active policy for both nations in the region. The US already maintains a considerable

military and naval force in the Gulf, and it is reinforcing it. It is sending an extra 40 ground-based aircraft, and special air-to-ground surveillance aircraft that will enable the US to track the movements of tanks and vehicles.

The addition of HMS *Invincible* means that, by January, there will be two or perhaps three aircraft carriers in the Gulf; there are currently two US carriers (the USS *Enterprise* and the USS *Carl Vinson*), though the *Enterprise* may be rotated out.

But for Britain, the mission in the Gulf may mark a much more important transition. Mr Blair has made a long-term commitment to a military force in the Gulf, but also seems

to be making an attempt to forge a quiet new form of strategic alliance with the US outside of Europe.

Britain withdrew its military forces from east of Suez in 1971 because of its reduced circumstances, closing bases and focusing almost exclusively on the Nato mission in Europe.

Now, the return of the *Invincible* seems to suggest a gradual return to the globalism that died out in the Sixties. Britain has also recently bought its own submarine-launched Tomahawk cruise missiles, and is planning two new aircraft carriers. There may be a shift taking place that has profound implications for foreign and defence policy.

Target list suggests more action is planned

THE DAMAGE

BRITAIN AND the United States are claiming that they hit all of the targets on their list in four days of air strikes.

But it is difficult to survey the target lists without coming to the conclusion that this operation leaves the way open for some other form of military action against, or within, Iraq. The focus on military units and communications facilities in the south of the country suggests that Washington and London believe there is a possibility of a revolt against the regime.

The US and Britain have released fairly extensive information about the targets of their strikes and the extent of the damage done.

They have not claimed, as was sometimes the case during the 1991 Gulf War, total victory. They have been more modest in their assessments, fearing the sort of backlash which came in 1991 when it was discovered that not everything that they said had been destroyed was even hit.

The first main category of targets was the air defence system, which was moderately damaged.

The US and Britain hit command centres, surface-to-air missiles, communication links and radar sites across the country. This would have been expected as part of any air attack - it clears the way for aircraft, rather than missiles, to be used. The US said that it wanted to clear an air corridor from the south of the country to the north.

The second main category of attack was the sites associated with weapons of mass destruction. The targets seem to have been principally sites associated with the weaponisation of chemical, nuclear and biological threats - missile factories and repair sites, guidance manufacturers and engine sites.

The US avoided dual-use sites where the chemical or biological agents might have been prepared, partly because these might have entailed civilian casualties, partly because

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

it said, it feared releasing dangerous chemicals into the air. But it would also be far harder to find these sites, and they might be easier for the Iraqis to patch up.

The message seemed to be that London and Washington still fear that such weapons will be developed, but they want to stop Iraq from being able to deliver them.

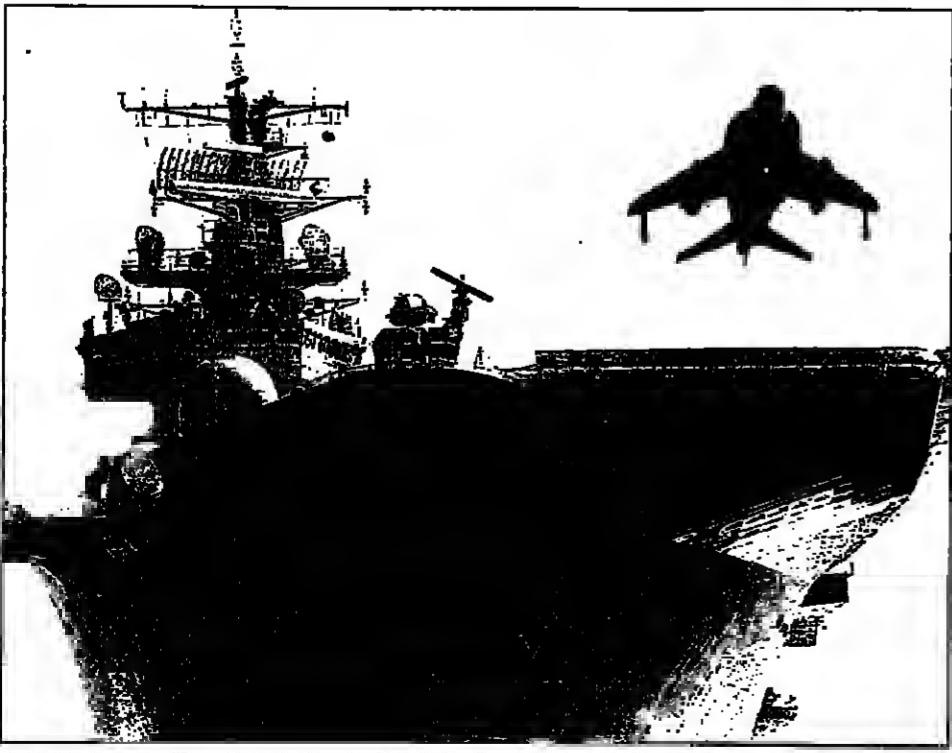
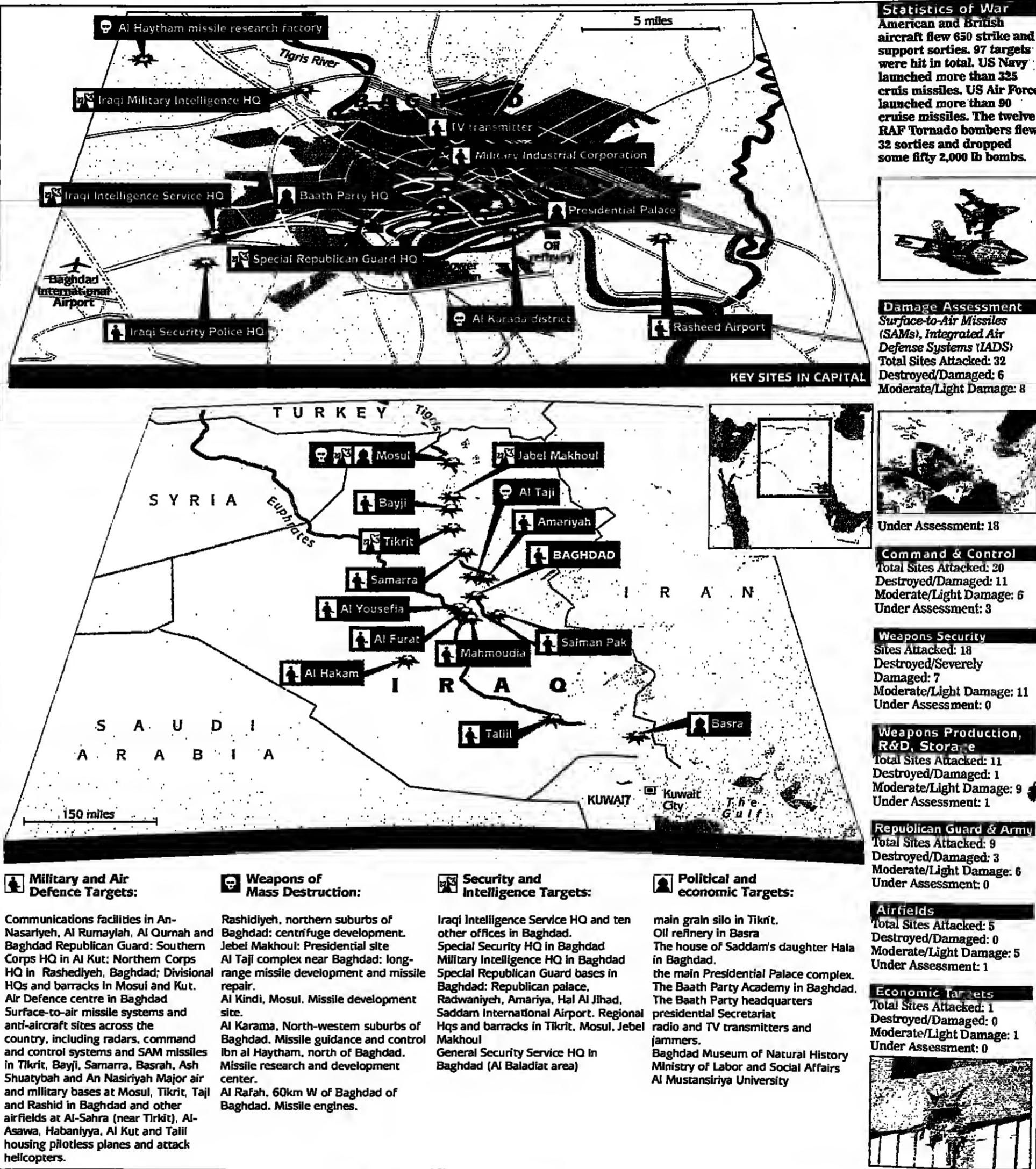
The Pentagon said that it believed it had delayed Iraq's missile programme by a year - that implies it wants to revisit the strikes.

The third category of targets was politico-military. There has obviously been an effort to remove or weaken the upper tier of the regime. The key command centres of the Republican Guard have been selected - corps and divisional headquarters. So have the main barracks and HQs of the Special Republican Guard, the units with the task of protecting the regime, and the headquarters and barracks of all of the intelligence organisations.

These attacks on security organisations were explained as assaults on the weapons concealment programme, in which all of these organisations played a key role.

But they are also important elements in the regime's internal security. Add to that the other targets, and it looks as if some other military action - either internal revolt, or some sort of limited intervention from outside - is being contemplated. The US destroyed communications facilities tying together the north and south of the country, for instance. These links can be restored within a few months, so there must have been some reason for wanting to weaken the communications in the short term.

And the attacks on assault helicopter bases across the country also indicate that America wants to prevent Iraq from being able to respond to an insurgency.



Britain is sending HMS *Invincible* (left) to the Gulf as part of the new strategy to 'contain' Saddam Hussein. Right, ground crew

Kevin Coombs/Reuters



Black Hawk helicopters undergoing maintenance checks close to the Iraqi border

Raed Quetena/AFP





Children gather around a huge crater yesterday caused by a missile attack late on Saturday on the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry in Baghdad

Karin Sahib/AP

'Do you think our soldiers were crazy enough to stay in barracks?'

THE VIEW FROM THE GROUND

AFTER THREE days of missile attacks the tops of many tall buildings in Baghdad are cracked open like concrete eggs, the upper stories reduced to a tangle of twisted metal and broken masonry. But most Iraqis think the prime target of the bombing - Saddam's regime - is undamaged.

"It will all be rebuilt in two or three months," said an Iraqi friend. "After all, half the population is unemployed so we are not short of labour. Saddam knew he could take a limited attack like this and declare himself a winner. If the aim was to weaken the regime in Iraq then it was not serious."

Already yesterday, government officials were sounding a triumphant note. "We knew they could not go on firing three hundred missiles a day," said one. He refused to comment on military casualties but added: "Do you think our soldiers were crazy enough to stay in their barracks?"

The short bombardment showed that Iraq has no defence against cruise missiles. The anti-aircraft fire was meagre compared to the fireworks of 1991. But the fact that Sad-

dam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, is still in place at the end of the air assault seems to be evidence to many Iraqis that he has seen off another challenge to his rule by the United States and Britain - the elephant and the rat, in the unkind comparison of Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister.

Security in Baghdad is tight. Armed Baath party militia are on street corners. Outside the capital it is impossible to know at first hand what is happening. But the willingness of the government to take journalists to Basra, near the Kuwaiti border in the south, suggests that it is confident that they are fully in control, despite the fact that some of the bombardment was specifically aimed at destabilising Republican Guard units in the area.

It was not a war without victims. In the first two days the Iraqi Ministry of Health says 68 civilians were killed in and around Baghdad. Indirect casualties are likely to be far greater. Much of Iraq's 22 million people live on or just



Business as usual: A man chooses fruit at a market in the centre of Baghdad yesterday

Peter Dejong/AP

below subsistence level.

Unicef said that a survey it carried out in October showed that one in five Iraqi infants are suffering from chronic or acute malnutrition.

With so many people only

just surviving from day to day it does not take much to push them below the breadline. For instance, every morning in normal times thousands of labourers gather in different parts of Baghdad waiting to be

hired. They earn the equivalent of about one pound a day. For the last three days they have not been seen.

"People like that have nothing to fall back on," said Margaret Hassan, the head of Care

International, the aid organisation in Iraq. "There are people here so poor that they cannot even afford the 200 dinars - 11 pence - which it takes to buy the official food ration. For a month, I was in a hospital in Kerbala in the south where they had no food to feed the mothers of newborn infants. Children over the age of one were getting a cup of tea and a piece of bread in the morning and nothing else."

In many ways Iraq has become less vulnerable to high technology attack because it has returned, after eight years of sanctions, to a pre-technological age. There is not a lot left to destroy.

In Saddam City, the huge working-class district of east Baghdad, a local doctor who did not want to be named, said: "The economic collapse here even generates jobs. People no longer use the telephone, but send messages by hand. Street cleaning is done by men with buckets not garbage trucks. Of course they get paid very little money."

Amidst such massive deprivation a few hundred missiles - frightening though they are as they strike - make little impact on the lives of ordinary Iraqis. It is unlikely to make them rise up against the government, even if they were able to do so against such a tightly organised security system. This is the view of every Iraqi I have spoken to in Baghdad. One man summed up the views of all the others: "In the end, it was not really serious."

unouched. What we have done is put him firmly back in his cage." "We have reduced the danger Saddam poses, consistent with common sense and a proportionate use of force. I recognise that not everyone around the world has welcomed this action but I believe, at heart, most know its necessity."

"We are ready to strike again if he again poses a threat to his neighbours, or develops weapons of mass destruction."

BILL CLINTON
(after impeachment)
"We are a good and decent country but we have significant challenges we have to face."

"In order to do it right,



we have to have some atmosphere of decency and civility, some presumption of good faith, some sense of proportionality and balance in bringing judgment against those who are in different parties."

"We must stop the politics of personal destruction."

Foreign Office to sell containment

BRITAIN'S DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

BRITAIN BEGAN a diplomatic offensive yesterday aimed at securing international support for its doctrine of "containment" of President Saddam Hussein and winning over several European allies who are deeply unhappy with the Anglo-American bombing of Iraq.

The crisis in the Gulf has demonstrated once more that Britain has a special relationship with the US. The phrase does not require inverted commas. It is a fact of life, cemented by history, shared language and intensive military and intelligence co-operation, oozing up through the bureaucracy to affect whichever British government is in power.

This time again, an almost instinctive mechanism has functioned. But not to everyone's liking. For all the Prime Minister's claims of backing for the raids among European and moderate Arab opinion, British officials acknowledge that many fences must be mended and many reassurances given.

But France wants at least an

easing of the sanctions, while providing safeguards against Iraqi rearmament. It would be a "politically delicate" question, Mr Chirac acknowledged, with some understatement.

Britain's efforts to explain itself got under way in earnest this morning when the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, holds a two-hour meeting in London with his German counterpart, Joschka Fischer, whose country takes over the rotating EU Presidency in 10 days' time, and who has publicly lamented the bombings of Iraq.

Afterwards, the Foreign Secretary set aside most of the afternoon for phone calls to his opposite numbers in Russia and EU countries including Italy and France, in which he will "be seeking to win them round to our ideas of containment," officials said last night.

The task may be difficult. If France could be charitably described as ambivalent about the bombing, Italy was explicitly opposed, while Moscow with-



French President Jacques Chirac yesterday Reuters

drew its ambassador to London in protest - though the Government strenuously insists that there has been no long-term setback to co-operation with Russia. And the attacks could have serious implications for future European defence strategy.

At one level, whatever Mr Blair says, they will cast doubt on Britain's commitment to the new "European defence identity" he wishes to impart to the EU, whereby the Union on occasion could take military action without the direct involvement of the US.

At another, the strikes effectively taken without consultation with either Britain's EU or Nato partners - may increase resistance to an "out-of-area" function for the alliance, turning into something akin to a global policeman.

This is already likely to be the principal item of controversy at next April's 50th anniversary Nato summit in Washington, charting the alliance's post-Cold War role.

RELIEF THAT the bombardment of Iraq has ended was the common emotion across the international community yesterday, combined in many cases with an urgent desire to avoid a repeat attack.

Though the most vocal criticism of the American and British action came from opposition groups in Arab countries, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, issued an urgent warning against further use of military force against Iraq.

"Reason has finally prevailed," he said in a written statement. "It still remains to fully assess the negative political consequences the bombardment led to, not to speak of the victims among the civilian population and the significant damage to the Iraqi economy, which was already blighted by the sanctions."

Mr Yeltsin's stance of the past few days is the strongest position he has taken against his putative political friends in London and Washington. "It is

made any public statements, officials in some pro-Western Gulf Arab countries expressed their reservations about allowing bombardment to be launched from their territory.

In Rabat, the Moroccan capital, there was a demonstration by around 100,000 people, with demonstrators denouncing the "assassin" Bill Clinton and his "pet dog" Tony Blair.

There were similar protests in the West Bank, Jordan and Syria. In Damascus, over 1,000 angry demonstrators, mostly students, attacked the American and British embassies.

An British embassy statement said the Ambassador, Basil Eastwood, had formally complained to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa asking for adequate protection and compensation for the damage inflicted by the protesters.

Mr al-Sharaa reportedly offered a "full apology" and stressed that there will be suitable protection for all British buildings and nationals.

Sidelined Yeltsin warns the Allies

WORLD REACTION

BY DARIUS SANAJ

absolutely clear that the use of force only complicated the solution of the Iraqi problem," he said. "Nobody has the right to violate the UN charter," he added. The Russian President was not informed in advance of the attacks and despite his opposition has appeared helpless to stop them.

Other Western leaders, while avoiding criticism of the action, were careful to emphasise the need for peaceful progress in the impasse between Iraq and the UN. Germany and Japan urged Baghdad to start working with the UN again to avert the possibility of another military strike.

"The German government therefore calls on Iraq to resume its co-operation with the UN," Chancellor Gerhard Schröder said, a comment echoed by Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura.

Although none of the leaders of Iraq's Muslim neighbours

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Slade, who will forever reap the reward of their festive No 1



The Spice Girls, left, are No 1 this Christmas after beating Johnny Vaughan and Denise Van Outen. Jimmy Osmond, right, a past winner



Bookies lose on Spice Christmas

IT IS as much part of the festivities as turkey and the Queen's broadcast. The Christmas No 1 marks the time when the music business abandons its cool image and unleashes catchy, sentimental and downright silly singles on the charts.

Yesterday, Radio 1 announced that the Spice Girls have equalled the Beatles' hat-trick with their third consecutive No 1. "Goodbye", beating off close competition from Chef's "Chocolate Salty Balls". Denise and Johnny's "Especially For You" was number three with

BY GLENDA COOPER
Cher's former chart-topper "Believe" at number four.

The bookmakers William Hill estimate they have lost £250,000 over the past three years due to the Spice Girls making it to No 1. They are already quoting the Girls as favourites for next year at 2-1 and are nervously looking at the weather (the double bet on the Spice Girls and a white Christmas at 8-1 could cost them an awful lot).

John McKie, editor of

Smash Hits, says he was not surprised by the Spice Girls' supremacy: "They are the biggest pop act on the planet, they release a single the week before Christmas – it's not exactly rocket science to see they were going to make it."

But he added that it is not always as clear cut: "Christmas is also the time when people that would never usually get to No 1 can make it, like Mr Blobby or the Teletubbies."

While the rest of the country quails at the thought of Slade's "Merry Xmas Everybody"

(1973), St Winifred's School Choir's "There's No One Quite Like Grandma" (1980), or "Long Haired Lover from Liverpool", Little Jimmy Osmond (1972) blearing out again, for record companies the Christmas No 1 remains crucial.

Estimates suggest a Christmas single can sell three times as many copies as a normal chart topper, with the festive season accounting for 40 per cent of profits. A Christmas No 1 is a landmark in the calendar," said Steve Redmond, editor-in-chief of *Music Week*. "A Christmas single can also propel sales of an album."

While the Spice Girls took few risks, their latest offering enjoying a sophisticated PR campaign for weeks, the spin-off from the cartoon *South Park*, voiced by 1970s soul legend Isaac Hayes, took a more low-key approach. The Chef single had little airplay due to its risqué lyrics, and the record company's approach, says Mr Redmond, was a man dressed as Chef walking up and down Oxford Street with a placard saying "Buy my record."

Murder leads to hunt for toddler

BY CATHY COMERFORD

POLICE WERE searching desperately yesterday for a two-year-old girl after her mother was found murdered in her home in Liverpool.

It is believed that the woman, 22-year-old Sharon Lester, had been dead for more than two days when her mother found her body. She had been beaten and repeatedly stabbed.

Merseyside police issued an



Jade Lester, 2: Mother's body was found at home

urgent appeal for information about the whereabouts of Ms Lester's daughter, Jade. It is thought she was last seen nine days ago, a week before Ms Lester's body was found at her home in the Kensington area of the city.

Detectives have launched a nationwide hunt for Jade. They said it was now "critical" they found the toddler's father, who is believed to be from the area but lives elsewhere.

Yesterday Merseyside police officers were interviewing Ms Lester's boyfriend, John Park, who comes from the Tue Brook area of Liverpool. They

Internet tries to bring God closer

BY CLARE GARNER

FOR THOSE who believed God's message was getting lost amid the increasing Christmas commercialism, help, of a sort, is at hand. A new gift service guarantees that the Almighty will communicate with you on a regular basis – sending inspirational verses of the Bible via your pager.

The Pages from God facility is one of a burgeoning number of theological gizmos available on the Internet. It will page you 20 times a month – in return for a small subscription.

Or invest in some Testaments, which come in three flavours and have wrappers bearing verses of the Bible. "Next time you're on a train... think: Testament," reads the blurb for a special seasonal tin. "Pass them round and do the work of an evangelist. You'll be helping to share the Good News."

Less tasteful is the Talking Tombstone, a standard granite and bronze memorial, which has the bizarre addition of a

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

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THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE McELVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTEMITH SMITH

Lockerbie: 10 years on and families pray for the truth

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

AN EMOTIONAL warning to the British and American governments not to jeopardise a trial of the two Libyans suspected of the Lockerbie bombing was delivered yesterday on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the Pan Am 103 mass murder.

Bert Ammerman, a 32-year-old high school principal from New Jersey, stood outside a church in the Borders town where he spent nine days waiting to identify his dead brother, and expressed the frustration of the victims' families in their search for the truth. "I couldn't care less if these guys are found guilty or not. They are only what we Americans would call 'guppies - small paws,'" Mr Ammerman said after attending the morning mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

"A trial will release the evidence and that's the most important thing. If you don't have a trial you are never going to find the truth. And if a trial doesn't happen, that's a scandalous issue on the heads of the British and American governments."

There has long been suspicion among victims' relatives that it has suited security services not to face the spotlight of a trial.

Mr Ammerman contrasted the readiness of the US to wage war in the Gulf with its tardiness over an atrocity in which 187 Americans died.

Bert Ammerman, from New Jersey, crosses the field where the Pan Am cockpit fell. His brother was killed in the bombing Adam Butler

line, the debris and the bodies."

But as a leading representative of the American victims' families, he has made a succession of visits in the campaign for answers to the tragedy.

Along the way, he has made friends and seen the town's physical scars heal over. Sherwood Crescent, where Lockerbie did not look like a town overshadowed by tragedy. A cluster of about 20 reporters and photographers opposite Holy Trinity church attracted a few curious glances.

But Lockerbie is tired of the media and the grim notoriety the disaster has brought it.

After identifying his brother, Mr Ammerman told the congregation at Holy Trinity church of the Christmas Eve a decade ago when he sat in the same pew,

"trying to figure out what in God's name was happening".

His brother Tommy, who worked for an Arab-owned shipping line, had been on Pan Am flight 103.

His body was found later on the lonely hillside at Tundergarth, four miles from the town where the aircraft's nose cone fell. Now Mr Ammerman feels able to bring his daughters Christine, 21, and Megan, 19, to Scotland to see the town's memorials to the dead.

Mr Ammerman began an emotional pilgrimage around Lockerbie, starting at Dryfesdale cemetery's garden

of remembrance. There he left a bouquet at the memorial inscribed with the names of the victims, and ran his fingers over his brother's name as he said a few words in private.

The card on the bouquet read: "Tommy, you did not die in vain. We've done the best we can. We're not finished yet but we are near a trial."

Mr Ammerman hopes that his next trip will be to the Netherlands where, if the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi hands them over, the two suspects will stand trial under Scottish law. Agreement to a trial in a third country had "boxed the colonel in", according to Mr Ammerman.

He said that the memorial

was a "simple but powerful" one for the 270 victims.

Revealing that he had spoken few words to his dead brother Mr Ammerman said: "I said, 'You didn't die in vain, we have done the best we can. We're not finished yet but we are near a trial.'

Mr Ammerman

hopes

his next trip will be to the Netherlands where, if the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi hands them over, the two suspects will stand trial under Scottish law. Agreement to a trial in a third country had "boxed the colonel in", according to Mr Ammerman.

He is anxious that the British and American governments do nothing to give Libya a pretext not to hand over the suspects. Western insistence on the pair serving any sentence in a Scottish jail, if convicted, is one big area of concern. The bombardment of Baghdad could also damage prospects for a trial.

Mr Ammerman

said he could not quarrel with the action taken by the US and Britain over Iraq, but he admitted "selfishly" he thought it was a setback and was likely to delay any hand-over and arrest of the suspects.

Prescott ire over Lib-Lab deals

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

JOHN PRESCOTT'S simmering anger at Tony Blair's decision to forge closer links with the Liberal Democrats boiled over in public yesterday.

The Deputy Prime Minister said: "I am not a great fan of it myself. I think if you have a majority of 179, you get on with delivering the promises."

Interviewed on BBC1's Breakfast With Frost, he defended Mr Blair's discussions with Paddy Ashdown over constitutional reform but deliberately stopped short of backing their recent agreement to extend it to other policy issues.

"We are a separate party," he said. "I am not a great fan for coalitions." Asked if he might end up sitting in the same Cabinet as Mr Ashdown, Mr Prescott replied bluntly: "Not under the way I have described it."

The Deputy Prime Minister's comments will not come as a surprise to Mr Blair. At a Christmas party for Labour staff, Mr Prescott is said to have joked that the party would turn into the Nouveau Democrats in 10 years. But Mr Blair will be worried that his deputy has publicly voiced his doubts. They emerged as Mr Ashdown faced a fresh burst of criticism from his party's ranks over his agreement with Mr Blair to extend cooperation between the parties.

In a pamphlet published today by the Centre for Reform think-tank, two senior Liberal Democrat figures expressed fears that the party will lose its distinctive identity.

Lord Wallace, a frontbench spokesman on foreign affairs, also said that although Mr Blair's strategy sought to "absorb" the Liberal Democrats, he believed the final destinations of the two parties would remain separate.

Neil Stockley, the Liberal Democrats' former director of policy, said: "The [Liberal Democrat] party must develop its own distinctive, branded political message."

RUC sweeps waste ground for corpses

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

POLICE IN Belfast have begun a search for the bodies of two men believed to have been abducted and killed by the IRA in the city 20 years ago.

Royal Ulster Constabulary officers yesterday broke up concrete steps at Glenolin Way, an area of open ground close to houses in the republican west Belfast district. This followed an investigation of the area on Saturday, when police used devices similar to mine-detectors to scan the ground.

According to one unconfirmed report, the search followed a telephone tip-off to a relatives' group, which may have come from the IRA.

The development has raised hopes of progress in finding the bodies of more than a dozen people missing since the Sevens, who have come to be known as "the disappeared".

Many families of the disappeared have been involved in a four-year campaign, pressing the IRA to reveal where their relatives are buried, but progress has been slow.

The IRA recently admitted that the burials had caused "incalculable anguish to their families" but claimed that pinpointing the graves was extremely difficult because of changes in IRA leadership, the deaths of some of its members and the passage of time.

More than 170 paramilitary prisoners, both loyalist and republican, will be released from prison this week for the annual 10 days' home leave.

With more than 200 already freed under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, this means that fewer than 100 inmates will remain behind bars at Christmas.

IN BRIEF

Branson balloon dodges storms

AFTER SURVIVING a night of fierce storms, the Virgin entrepreneur Richard Branson and his crew soared over central Asia last night heading for the Himalayas on day three of their attempt to circle the globe in a balloon.

"Somebody was looking over us last night," Mr Branson said. "We not only missed the storm but also missed Iraq by 60 miles, Iran by seven miles and Russia by 10 miles."

Police car swept away in flood

TWO POLICE officers escaped injury when their patrol car was washed away in a flash flood in Cornwall on Saturday night. The officers climbed out of a window and on to the roof of their car after it was swept 100 metres downstream in the Gweek area. They then managed to leap to dry land. The car reportedly filled with water.

Nobel prizewinner dies at 84

PROFESSOR ALAN Hodgkin, one of Britain's most distinguished biologists, has died aged 84, his family said yesterday. Sir Alan won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1963 with Professor Andrew Huxley and Sir John Eccles. They discovered how nerve cells transmit electrical impulses from the skin to the brain and back again.

Mummified body found in Suffolk

A MAN'S BODY found at a beauty spot was mummified and he may have been dead for years, detectives said yesterday. The man, thought to be in his twenties, was found on Friday at Fen Meadow Park, Woodbridge, Suffolk. A post-mortem examination failed to uncover any obvious cause of death and officers have no idea of the man's identity.

Five share £11.8m lottery prize

THE WINNING numbers in Saturday night's National Lottery £11.8m jackpot draw were 9, 10, 18, 25, 28, 48, with 34 the bonus. Five entries shared the first prize, winning £2.3m each.

STEVEN BERKOFF

Madness for actors is part of the course, but great actors are extremely sane

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 4



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Archbishop attacks Dome

BY CATHY COMERFORD

THE MILLENNIUM Dome is a symbol of man's arrogance that contrasts starkly with the humility of Christianity 2,000 years ago, the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, said yesterday.

The Archbishop made an impassioned attack on the controversial project, calling for Christians to remember the humble origins of Christmas.

Dr Hope drew a contrast between the nativity and what he calls the "self-glorification

of man" which he said the Dome represents. "What a stark contrast there is between the way in which it is proposed we are to celebrate in a year's time the second millennium of this birth," he said in a newspaper interview.

The great humility of the manger has now become the hubris of a dome, a dome to celebrate the apotheosis of man rather than the glory of God ...

"The celebration and preparation for the second millennium of the Saviour's birth ought to be a ... recognition of our human fragility, frailty and finiteness."

His words are likely to inflame feelings among some Christians that the Dome lacks a Christian emphasis.

Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, appeared unmoved by the latest Dome row yesterday and was said to be fully supportive of the project.

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Briton jailed over heroin faces retrial

A BRITISH woman who tried to smuggle heroin out of Pakistan is facing the possibility of a further 10 years in a Karachi jail - despite having already served her prison sentence.

The Foreign Office is investigating the case of Rosemarie Morley, 31, a single mother. She was due to return to Britain earlier this month after her time in prison. Her treatment at the hands of the Pakistani authorities, who plan to try her again for the same crime, is a violation of human rights, international law and Pakistan's constitution, say British legal campaigners.

Ms Morley and her boyfriend, Markus Mifid, both from London, were caught at Karachi airport with 2.8kg of heroin each in July last year. The drugs were hidden in the mechanism of their suitcases.

Although the couple insisted they did not know what the packages in their luggage contained, they pleaded guilty to smuggling the drugs, believing their sentences would be lighter. Ms Morley, who suffers from clinical depression, was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison but had been due for early release on 11 December, after winning remission for teaching English to children in Karachi Juvenile Jail where she is held.

In September this year she learnt that she was to be charged again over the same incident, but this time with possession of drugs, rather than smuggling.

Rana Shamim, her legal representative in Karachi, said the charges had been brought under a new Pakistani law,

BY CATHY COMERFORD

which allows for someone who has been convicted of drug smuggling to be charged with possession and the case registered a second time.

Mr Shamim said: "We are challenging this in the High Court as a direct violation of the constitution. This law has not yet been tested but it contravenes article 13a of the constitution, which says no person shall be prosecuted or pun-



Rosemarie Morley. Could be jailed for second time

ished for the same crime more than once."

Stephen Jakobi, founder of Fair Trials Abroad, which is campaigning on Ms Morley's behalf, said: "It is established in British and international law that a person cannot be tried again for the same offence."

He added that other British nationals and Europeans had suffered similar miscarriages of justice in Pakistan. "I am particularly concerned for Rose-

Call to cut diesel damage

BRITAIN WILL today propose a massive Europe-wide cutback in particulates, one of the most harmful air pollutants.

The microscopic particles of soot and other matter can collect deep in the lungs. They are thought to trigger up to 8,000 premature deaths a year in the UK alone in people with respiratory and heart diseases.

The principal source of particulates is diesel engines in lorries, buses and coaches.

In Brussels today the Environment minister, Michael Meacher, will be urging his

By MICHAEL McCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

counterparts from other EU member states to adopt strict new particulate limits, which would mean special emissions-reduction technology fitted to all new heavy diesel-engined vehicles in Europe by 2005.

Europe's green ministers are already likely to agree that there should be a 30 per cent cutback on the current levels of particulate emissions from new vehicles from 2000, and the European Parliament has

called for a further 50 per cent cutback by 2005. But Britain wants the further reduction to be even tougher, at 30 per cent. Other member states with heavy vehicle industries, especially Italy, are likely to oppose the plan on the grounds that it would be too expensive and difficult. But the Government believes the technology already exists to allow it and says it is not prohibitively expensive.

Also on the agenda will be tough new limits for another heavy vehicle pollutant, oxides of nitrogen, known as Nox.



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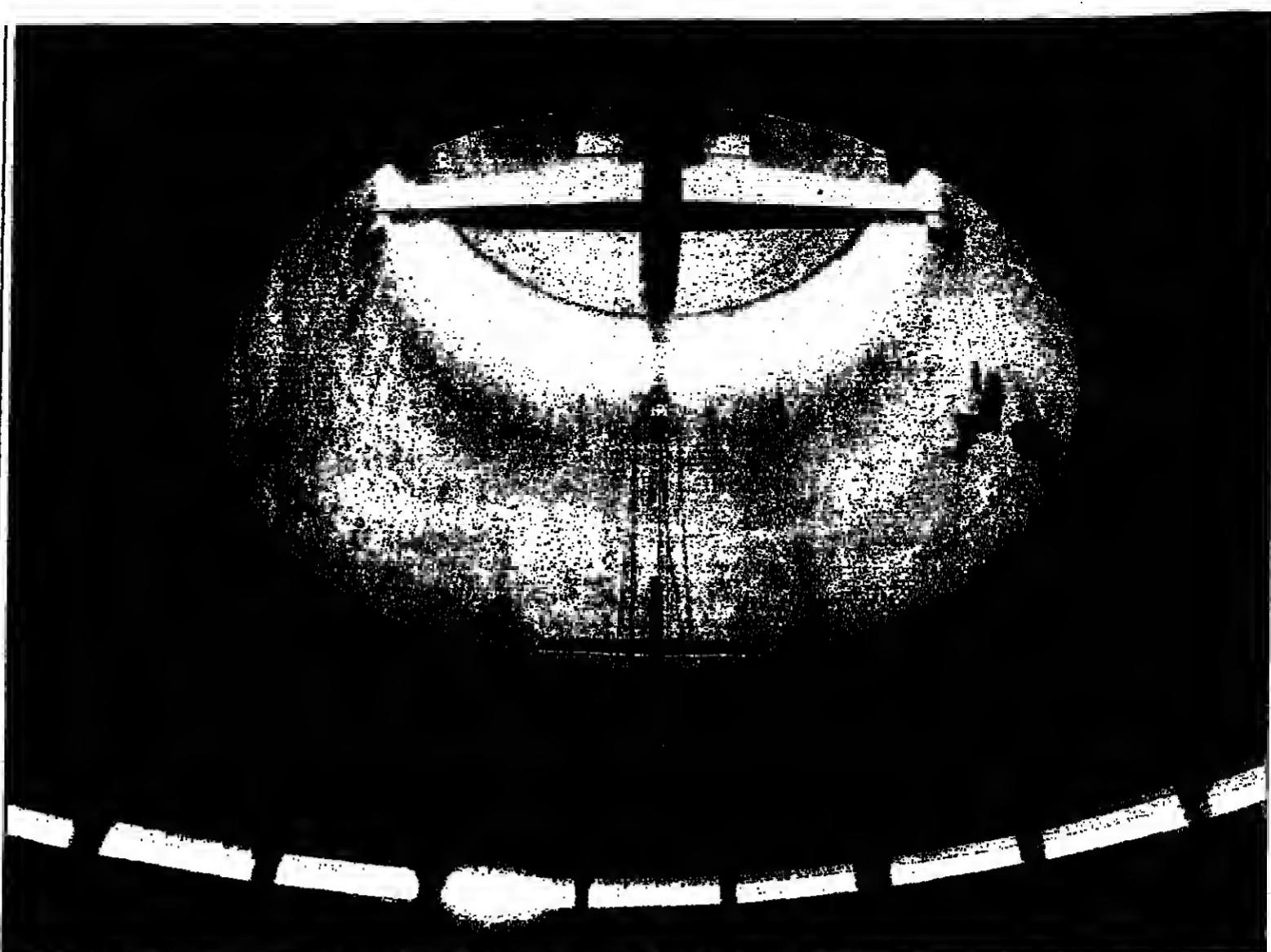
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Climbers hanging from the central lantern of Worth Abbey, near Crawley in West Sussex. Monks at the Benedictine abbey, designed by Francis Pollen, have been unable to clean the windows or the crucifix since the lantern was completed in 1974

John Voos

Nasa probe approaches asteroid

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

THE FINAL approach has begun to put a spacecraft in orbit around an asteroid for the first time, in a manoeuvre that could one day result in robots mining the mineral-rich rocks of space.

It will also be used to test ways of landing rockets on asteroids that are in danger of colliding with Earth, to shift them into safer orbits.

Scientists from the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) yesterday fired the rocket engines of a space probe flying beyond Mars to accelerate it towards its final target: Eros, an asteroid the size of London.

By the end of next month the Near spacecraft will have come alongside its quarry and begun the complex series of manoeuvres designed to bring it within a few miles of the surface. The Near probe, which cost £138m, will for the next 12 months photograph, measure, monitor and map Eros from orbit to make it the most studied asteroid to date.

At the end of the year-long mission, in the first weeks of the new millennium, Nasa scientists hope to bring the probe to within a few feet of Eros, and even test land it on the asteroid's rock-hard surface.



An artist's impression of the \$139m Near probe

ever hit the planet. A small asteroid just 5ft wide exploded over the Tunguska region of Siberia in 1908, destroying over half a million acres of forest. In 1990, an asteroid 0.25 miles wide and weighing 50 million tons came within 400,000 miles of

Earth, passing the same point in space just six hours apart.

Eros, a potato-shaped body 26 miles long and 9 miles wide, is 240 million miles away and poses no threat to Earth. But it offers scientists the best opportunity to find out more about the mysterious lumps of rock left over from the formation of the planets.

Eros is an S-type asteroid composed of silicate enriched with metallic iron. The analysis of its composition will help to determine the part it played in the birth and evolution of the solar system, said Professor William Boynton, a Near scientist at Arizona University.

"This is the first time ever a spacecraft will orbit an asteroid. There have been fly-bys and

snapshots, but not much in the way of quantitative scientific data," he said.

Robert Farquhar, of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where some of the Near instruments were built, said: "What we know of asteroids is very limited. But now we're going to go into orbit around an asteroid and study it intensely for a year. We expect to get astounding information."

Although Eros is 240 million miles from Earth, the Near probe has travelled more than 1.5 billion miles since its launch in February 1996. It has flown an indirect route, which included a return trip to Earth to use the planet's gravitational pull as a "slingshot" to throw the probe back into space.

Write to Santa, certainly.



Christmas comes but once a year, so you want to make it special. This 18ct gold, half carat diamond solitaire is the perfect answer to a Christmas wish. For just £599 this ring comes gift wrapped with a 10 year guarantee. So you're guaranteed to make someone feel extra special come Christmas morning. For more gift ideas pop into any one of our stores and pick up our Christmas brochure. Or call our freephone number 0800 389 5952.

Ernest Jones

THE DIAMOND & WATCH SPECIALIST

18ct Gold Half Carat Diamond Solitaire Ring

'Peas for votes' storm as St Petersburg goes to polls

THIS IS a very bad time to be a liberal democrat in Russia.

Take several incidents over the past few days alone: a school in the Urals has unveiled a bust of Stalin; Communists have been clamouring for the return of the monument to Felix Dzerzhinsky, the ruthless founder of the KGB, outside the Lubyanka in downtown Moscow; the mayor of Moscow,

By PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

Yuri Likhov, a leading presidential candidate, held a weekend congress of his new political party (Fatherland) and announced the era of radical liberal reforms was dead. "The experiment is over," he declared.

The liberal democrats themselves - a mixed bag ranging

from opportunist free-marketeers to genuine liberals - are in shock caused by the murder a month ago of one of their leading lights in parliament, Galina Starovoitova, adviser to Boris Yeltsin in the *perestroika* era. Their influence has shrivelled. And anti-Semites have been spouting freely in parliament.

And yet there is one small corner of hope, in what used to be the tears' city of St Petersburg. Yesterday saw the second round of municipal elections in the city - which is, by tradition, a seedbed for Russia's liberal intelligentsia.

Democrats were hoping to consolidate gains made after the assassination of Ms Starovoitova. Outrage at her murder was one reason for an unprecedentedly high turnout of 40 per cent in the election's first round on 6 December when the anti-communist liberals - notably the Yabloko Party - did well. Underlying this was impatience with runaway corruption and crime in St Petersburg which has seen repeated assassinations and the evolution of mafia-style criminal gangs who control a large section of business, including cemeteries.

But, while the election results, expected early today, may give democrats a rare cause for celebration, the campaign itself has not. The elections have been marred by some of the dirtiest tactics witnessed in Russian politics. There were allegations that pensioners were given tins of peas for votes; phantom candidates with the same names as

genuine participants appeared on ballot papers. Smears and counter-smears abounded.

Whatever the outcome, the so-called democratic camp has a long way to go if it is to do well in national parliamentary elections next year and - crucially - make a credible challenge for the presidency in 2000.

After the Starovoitova murder, most of their leading lights

- former prime minister Yegor Gaidar and Sergei Kiriyenko, and leading ex-ministers Anatoly Chubais, Boris Fedev and Boris Nemtsov - announced a coalition.

However, a key figure has refused to play ball. Yabloko's leader Grigory Yavlinsky, while he stands apart, the liberal democratic vote, or what's left of it, could be dangerously split.

Expats fight for justice in Italy

BY FRANCES KENNEDY
in Rome

the personnel office within 48 hours and sign new contracts, which drastically curtailed their salaries and rights. Failure to do so would mean their employment was terminated," said David Petrie, a tenacious Scot, the founder and president of the Association for the Defence of Foreign Lecturers.

From his home in Verona, Mr Petrie directs an incessant flow of faxes, letters, press releases and legal challenges.

Over the years his pursuit of justice has become an obsession. Several times he has taken to court his own university in Verona - and won - but is still waiting to see his legal victory translated into reality.

He is not alone. About 1,000 of the estimated 1,500 foreign language lecturers in Italy are involved in legal proceedings.

"The ridiculous thing is that even Italian judges have upheld our claims but the university boards and rectors simply refuse to comply. The ministry says the universities are autonomous but I bet no university back in Britain would ever



David Petrie, a Scot working in Verona, who is challenging the Italian government over the rights of foreign lecturers

Nick Cornish

claim they were above the law," added Mr Petrie.

The trials and tribulations of the *lettore straniero* go back some years. Foreigners were traditionally employed on annual renewable contracts until their case became a test of EU credibility, regarding the equal treatment of European nations within each state.

The foreign lecturers won two landmark rulings. The first, at the European Court of Justice in 1995, established that because Italian lecturers had open-ended contracts, non-nationals should have the

same. "After the 1995 ruling, the authorities simply shifted the goalposts. They offered us new open-ended contracts but for a different job. We are no longer lecturers but *collaboratori linguistici*, linguistic collaborators, on worse wages and conditions than before," Mr Petrie said. In 1996 14 lecturers in Salerno were fired for refusing to sign new contracts.

The second sentence declared that the lecturers had been discriminated against and were entitled to back pay including arrears of pension and social security contributions.

"To placate Brussels, the Ministry for Universities pre-

sented a letter sent to all rectors urging them to fall in line. Yet in a separate note to state lawyers last month, it said the European Commission was well disposed towards 'definitively closing the case' or in layman's terms, dropping it," said Mr Petrie.

However, it appears that the Commission has no intention of letting things slip and at a December meeting it agreed to continue legal proceedings.

While Mr Petrie and his 400 odd followers hope a European solution will guarantee their status and conditions, other

foreign lecturers are battling through the Italian union system.

"It's really getting out of hand," said John Gilbert, a New Yorker teaching in Florence and a member of CGIL, Italy's largest trade union. "Universities after university is resorting to bully tactics. They put lecturers in a position where if they want their legally won rights to be respected they have to accept that another colleague may lose his job through 'restructuring'. The overall losers are not only we lecturers but also our students," he said.

Matador legend dies, aged 66

BY ELIZABETH NASH
in Madrid

of their hero in his suit of lights.

Government ministers, the Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa and Spain's grandest grande the Duchess of Alba, were among hundreds who paid their respects at Seville town hall, where his body was laid in state yesterday. The Duchess's daughter married

Hemingway's novel *The Sun Also Rises*. When Ordóñez first met the writer, he asked: "Am I as good as my father?" Hemingway replied: "You're better."

Ronda declared three days of official mourning, and black-draped flags flew at half-mast. Ordóñez is to be cremated today and his ashes scattered on the sand of Ronda, the cradle of Spanish bullfighting.

Obituary, Review, page 6



Ordóñez: Countless gorings and 27 serious injuries

Islamists poised to take over in Turkey

BY STEVE BRYANT
in Ankara

suspect, yesterday said he would hand back the mandate to form a government to President Suleyman Demirel today.

Mr Demirel must now appoint someone else to form Turkey's sixth government since 1995. Any administration would probably only govern until April, when early elections are scheduled.

Virtue is the successor to the Welfare Party, outlawed in January for attempting to subvert the constitution. (Reuters)

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Sofia mafia boss killed

ONE OF the reputed leaders of the Bulgarian mafia was gunned down early yesterday at a villa near the capital, Sofia, police reported.

Ivo Karamanski, 39, had joined a party when a quarrel among guests ended in a shootout, police said. Mr Karamanski and his bodyguard died at the scene. Two other guests were wounded. Police later arrested a 33-year-old man.

Mr Karamanski, a former national rowing champion, ran a prosperous insurance company. In 1986 he was sentenced to two years in jail for fraud. He was believed to be a key figure in Bulgaria's underworld.

Despite his reputation, Mr Karamanski maintained good connections with police and judiciary officials. He once celebrated release from detention by having a cup of coffee in public with the state prosecutor.

He was among the founders of criminal groups set up and controlled by former athletes. In the nine years since Bulgaria threw off Communist rule, many former sports stars have gone from being legitimate bodyguards to operating shady "security" services. (AP)

IN BRIEF

'Bin Laden aide' sent to the US

A SUSPECTED senior aide of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi millionaire accused of organising the bombings at US embassies in East Africa this summer, was turned over to American officials at Munich airport last night for extradition to the US. A spokesman for the Bavarian Justice Ministry said Mamoudou Mahmud Salim was taken from Stadelheim prison in Munich to the airport and handed over to the Americans.

Israel freezes West Bank transfer

THE ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, won cabinet agreement yesterday for the suspension of peace moves with the Palestinians, setting the scene for a showdown in parliament. There was one abstention to a proposal to freeze the hand-over of West Bank land outlined in the United States-brokered Wye River accord.

Prince accuses 'captive' women

TEN SERVANTS of a Saudi prince, Turki bin Abdul Aziz - a brother of King Fahd - threw a note from their Cairo hotel window, saying they were being held captive. Yesterday eight of the Filipino women were arrested after the prince accused them of theft. They said the prince's allegation was provoked by their complaints.

Tent fire kills 165 buffaloes

A TOTAL of 165 buffaloes and four horses were killed when an electric short circuit set ablaze a grass tent built by nomads in Punjab state, 185 miles north of Delhi. The animals belonged to a man of the Gujjar tribe, which lives mainly in forests. The animals were all charred to death.

JOHN WALSH

"Madam," I replied coldly, "Aladdin is about as Christmassy as the Sphinx."

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 5

Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct®

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following rates for mortgages provided by Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct will apply as from 4th January 1999 for both new and existing borrowers.

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الإمارات ١٢٥



Thai performers staging a 'Light of Asia' show during the closing ceremony of the international Asian Games in Bangkok yesterday AP

Show trial begins of China's top dissident

THE LEADING Chinese dissident still active on the mainland was scheduled for trial this morning in the heavily guarded Peking Number 1 Intermediate People's Court, one day after a labour activist who had served three years in a labour camp was unexpectedly paroled and exiled.

Human rights activists branded the timing of Liu Ni-an-chun's release as an attempt by Peking to deflect international criticism from its higgledy-piggledy crackdown in three years.

As 50-year-old Mr Liu and his family were bundled on to a Northwest Airlines flight to the United States yesterday morning, the latest victim of the

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

suppression, Xu Wenli, was preparing for today's court appearance. Notice of the trial was given to Mr Xu's family only on Friday, leaving on time for the court-appointed lawyer to organise his defence.

This year, 55-year-old Mr Xu has become the elder mentor and focus for a disparate group of activists across China, many of whom have been involved in trying to register an independent China Democracy Party.

Like two other activists whose brief trials were held last week, Mr Xu will plead not guilty to charges of inciting subversion,

but is bound to be convicted. The maximum penalty for the offence is life imprisonment, although no sentences have yet been announced.

In the late Seventies, Mr Xu was a Democracy Wall activist and has already spent 12 years in prison, mostly in solitary confinement.

As he became more outspoken over the course of this year, Mr Xu was taken in for questioning many times but, until his arrest on 30 November, had been released within hours or days.

In particular, Tony Blair was embarrassed during his October visit to the mainland when Mr Xu was detained briefly for

questioning, and British aides hurriedly raised the matter with their Chinese hosts.

The current crackdown on

dissidents has left European Union governments on the defensive about their optimistic claims earlier this year that "constructive engagement" with China was helping to secure significant improvements in human rights.

The EU this spring controversially abandoned its annual attempt to censure China at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

The parole on medical grounds and exile of Mr Liu follows similar treatment since late 1997 for two other high-

profile dissidents, Wang Dan and Wei Jingsheng. China now seems willing to release leading dissidents only if they immediately go into exile.

Mr Liu was arrested in 1995 when Peking clamped down on labour activists. The following year, his wife learnt he had been sentenced without trial to three years' "re-education through labour" in north-east China. That was subsequently extended by a year. As Mr Liu's health deteriorated, his wife, Chu Hailan, campaigned to bring his case to the attention of the outside world.

Mr Xu's wife, He Xintong, has been similarly fearless, also putting herself at risk

ON MY FRONT door in Nizamuddin, I have just hung up a huge red and green wreath, made from dried chilli peppers, to spice up my holiday mood and to discourage a marauding monkey who has been mooching around our neighbourhood.

He won't nibble on these Christmas goodies more than once, that's for sure.

Christmas Day is a national holiday in India where all offices shut, and Christmas Eve is one of the biggest nights for middle-class families to dine out, topped only by New Year's Eve.

Many Indians look forward to a Christmas bonus and Christmas break.

While politically correct friends send me their family photos stamped, inoffensively, "Season's Greetings" and the New Agers command me by e-mail to "Make it a peaceful Winter Solstice, man", I am mired in Christmas chaos here in the Indian capital.

Cultural fusion often sparks confusion, and this year we have the Islamic holy month of Ramadan coinciding with Chanukkah, Christmas and the birthday of the 10th Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh.

To complicate matters even further, more than 10,000 bridegrooms, mounted on white steeds and each preceded by a brass band and a gaggle of relatives, hit the streets last week when the astrological alignment of the stars was declared especially auspicious for weddings.

But not to worry. Celebrating is what the denizens of Delhi do best.

The colder it is outside, the hotter the entertainment gets, and the mercury here has dropped to a chilly 6C.

Festive fairy lights sparkle in the hedges, whisky drinkers warm their hands around charcoal braziers and loudspeakers crackle at maximum volume.

Shahnaz, the melancholy eunuch, is sporting imported fluorescent green eyeshadow to make a bigger impact at the wedding parties he stalks.

Because of so much winter fog, the hijra entertainers is now too hoarse to sing out

CITY LIFE

DELHI

blessings for cash. "What to do?" he shrugs. "My dancing is still there. And I thank Allah for this Ramadan fast. The nights come much quicker than in summer."

He won't nibble on these Christmas goodies more than once, that's for sure.

With two other hijras, who resemble pantomime dames on the skids, Shahnaz huddles in an open rickshaw and heads towards a wedding reception down the road.

The cloth sides of the shamania, done up like an ersatz Taj Mahal, seem to

pulse to the beat of the band.

There is no chance here to experience a truly Sileet Night, with more than 10,000 bridegrooms, mounted on white steeds and each preceded by a brass band and a gaggle of relatives, hit the streets last week when the astrological alignment of the stars was declared especially auspicious for weddings.

The centre believes in pluralism - the more gods the merrier. Emanuel Baksee, a Christian convert, sets up a tiny manger scene every year and never leaves out three odd figures. Mingled with the wise men and shepherds are a plastic Santa, a small rubber Mahatma Gandhi with silver glitter on his loincloth, and a miniature Indira Gandhi, like Cruella De Vil in a sari.

Sometimes the unfamiliar symbolism goes awry. I spied an extravagant wreath of bogus pine boughs that featured an especially grisly crucifix - all done up with a red satin bow that exactly matched the colour of the blood droplets.

But whether it's a "Merry Christmas" or even a "Happy Krishna", I know every minor acquaintance in Delhi will phone me on Christmas Day to wish me well.

JAN MCGIRK

court of last appeal. He said the court could be replaced by a Caribbean court of appeals or a Barbadian court if that could not be set up within "a reasonable time".

Barbados gained independence in 1966 after 350 years as a British colony.

choice tourist destination. Even though the tourist industry has become the mainstay of the economy and the island's biggest foreign currency earner, Barbados has not developed a dependency culture and Sir Henry paid tribute to the self-reliance of the

islanders. Barbados was capable of properly managing all aspects of its national affairs, he insisted.

"We have had the experience of a succession of native governors, all but one of whom have been local Barbadians, and they have discharged their

court of last appeal. He said the court could be replaced by a Caribbean court of appeals or a Barbadian court if that could not be set up within "a reasonable time".

Barbados gained independence in 1966 after 350 years as a British colony.

Local info: <http://www.ipuk.co.uk>

Mortgages

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Banking Direct Mortgage Rate Plus (Variable) 8.19% per annum.

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Home Loan Rate 7.69% per annum.



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Rebels overrun diamond capital

BY ALLIEU IBRAHIM KAMARA
in Freetown, Sierra Leone

REBELS OVERRAN the diamond capital of Koidu in the east of Sierra Leone on Saturday when West African and allied forces withdrew after fierce fighting, survivors and aid workers said on Sunday.

In Freetown, the West African Econog troops told people to leave the Lumley beach resort on Sunday as artillery fire could be heard in the distance, witnesses said.

The rebels launched their attack on Koidu on Wednesday, but were initially beaten back by the Nigerian-led Econog troops supported by Kamajor traditional hunters.

"The battle continued until early yesterday when the Econog troops and Kamajors pulled back to the outskirts of the town," Alpha Jalloh, 45, a diamond miner, told reporters in Freetown. He was shot in the leg in the fighting and was taken to the capital with other wounded by military helicopter.

Econog officers said they withdrew to limit civilian casualties. "We are giving the civilians a few days to leave the town, then we will strike and crush the rebels," an officer said.

Survivors in Freetown told of bodies lying in the streets. Aid workers said thousands of civilians had fled Koidu. (Reuters)

CHRISTOPHER McEWEN, MANAGING DIRECTOR, TENDRING CONSTRUCTION, NORTH EAST ESSEX.



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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Fleming denies Commerzbank bid
ROBERT FLEMING, one of the UK's last remaining independent investment banks, yesterday moved to squash rumours that it had rejected a £3bn offer from Commerzbank because of opposition to a takeover from its founding family.

Recent reports suggested that Commerzbank tabled a £22-a-share bid for Robert Fleming Group, nearly three times its current market value, in September. However, the reports said the bid was blocked by the Fleming family, which holds a 30 per cent stake.

The bank has also been linked in recent weeks with ABN Amro, JP Morgan and Paribas. A spokesman for Robert Fleming said: "We have had no contact at all with Commerzbank. There has been no bid and no talks. We are not up for sale."

Champagne sales set to fizz

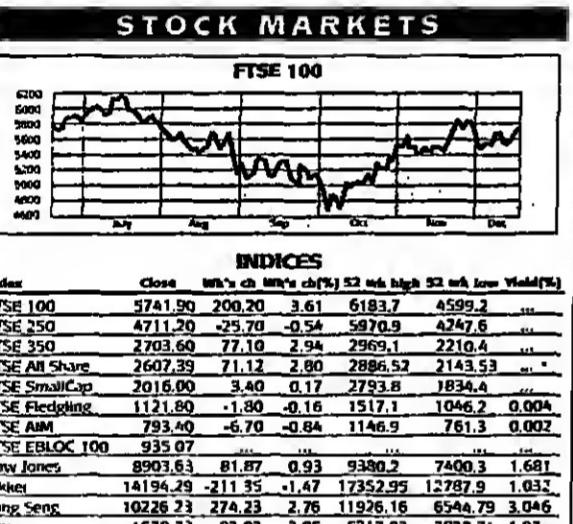
CONSUMPTION OF CHAMPAGNE
Consumption of champagne is set to rise by a fifth next year as revellers celebrate the end of the millennium. According to Datamonitor, the market research group, demand for champagne is set to jump by 22 per cent in the UK, Germany, France and the US in 1999, with sales of sparkling wine also rising sharply.

The report raises the prospect of a champagne shortage, with demand possibly exceeding the 320 million bottles which are available around the world. By comparison, however, growth in the demand for beer and next year wine is expected to be relatively modest.

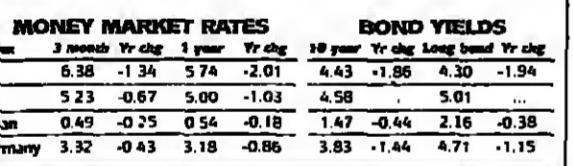
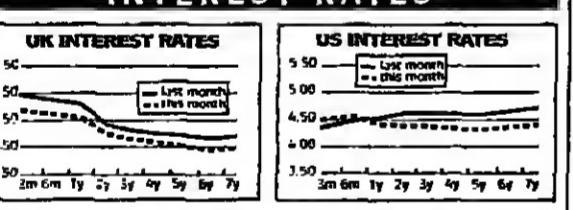
Brand development link-up

THE IDENTICA PARTNERSHIP, the brand development group, is to merge with Tango Design, part of Bartle Bogle Hegarty, the advertising group, in order to concentrate on projecting companies' brands inside shops. The place where consumers buy products - the so-called point of engagement - has traditionally been neglected by advertisers. In the US, however, advertisers spend over \$1bn every year promoting brands at the point of engagement.

Identica, founded in 1995 by Michael Peters, has £7m turnover and a client base that includes Seagram, Unilever, One2One and Gillette.



INTEREST RATES



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TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)
Austria (schillings)
Belgium (francs)
Canada (\$)
Cyprus (pounds)
Denmark (krone)
Finland (markka)
France (francs)
Germany (marks)
Greece (drachma)
Hong Kong (\$)
Ireland (pounds)
India (rupees)
Israel (shekels)
Italy (lira)
Japan (yen)
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The 20-year bull run is not over yet

STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

IT'S BEEN a splendid year for blue chips, despite the autumn collapse of confidence, which prompted agonised squeals of despair and the usual array of declarations that the bull run was over and the bears would be left on the bones of the stock market.

Last week Footsie closed at 5,741.9 points, representing a net inconsiderable 600 gain so far this year and thereby preserving the 20-year bull run.

Mind you, the index has not, as yet, lived up to the heady hopes expressed at the start of the year. But a merry festive run - the signs last week were encouraging - could push Footsie to a level which justifies the predictions circulating as 1998 got under way.

Many City experts were convinced Footsie would end the year comfortably above 6,000. They can, even if the seasonal run fails continue, say with justification they were on the right path. Unfortunately, they could be accused of getting one essential element of investment strategy hopelessly wrong - their timing.

The index crossed 6,000 in April and went on to peak at 6,179 in July. Then it was down with a year's low of 4,599.2 hit in October before sanity returned and a revival got under way.

The slump, with the benefit of hindsight, had been waiting to happen. The simmering Russian economic crisis suddenly exploded, prompting Asia's already appreciable problems to be regurgitated with increased force.

British businessmen became more vocal about the strong pound and its impact on company earnings, and profit warnings almost acquired a nuisance value.

The misdemeanours of President Clinton started to ruffle New York and then the Long-Term Capital Management hedge fund disaster hit a startled market, provoking wild stories of a deluge of financial disasters and confi-

much of its equilibrium and forecasts for next year are starting to look increasingly chirpy, the rest of the stock market remains a deeply depressed area.

Second- and third-line shares fluttered in the first half of the year, even hitting new highs, but their under-performance has been frightening, and the mid cap, small cap and fledgling constituents have bombed-out.

As Richard Jeffrey at Charterhouse Tilney pointed out recently, the small cap index has underperformed the All-Share index a staggering 40 per cent in the last two years.

The stock market in recent times has become very much a market of two halves - Footsie constituents enjoying all the fun and most of the rest limping along, looking decidedly distressed.

The reasons for the contrasting fortunes have been well documented. The lack of liquidity which hampers dealing in smaller company shares is increased by the reluctance of many institutional investors to venture outside the confines of Footsie. They want to buy and sell shares smoothly and easily and that is not possible with many on the under-card.

It is a chicken and egg situation: until big investors are prepared to take a more active interest in small company shares and liquidity in them consequently improves, they will remain neglected.

There is, of course, plenty of hidden value at today's share valuations. The continuing flow of cash takeover bids, often from overseas, is an indication of the merits lurking on the under-card.

And the growing and rather worrying growth in management buy-outs is another example. It is understandable that managers become irritated by the low - and they believe inappropriate - value placed on their company and their labours by the stock market. So they unlock value by mounting a cash bid.

usually hacked by venture capitalists.

Independent directors and outside advisers are consulted but the managers are in a better position than anyone else to appreciate the true value of their company and it would be surprising if they do not make sure they get a bargain. Certainly they would be foolish to pay even a penny less.

So at the end of the day it is the shareholder who is in danger of getting ripped off and as smaller companies are largely the preserve of small, private shareholders it is, as is so often the case in the stock market, the little guy who

is most likely to be taken advantage of.

Will the situation improve for the small company next year? Hope springs eternal.

Mr Jeffrey says there is "exceptional value embedded in small company ratings" and believes a rally could occur in the middle of next year.

Still, the long-running under-performance by the little 'uns provides fuel for the argument that the fact there are, in effect, two stock markets should be recognised by a two-way split - an international market for, say, the 100 shares in Footsie and the 250 in the mid cap index and a domestic one for the rest.

Indeed it could be argued that the computerised order book, currently embracing 125 shares and intended eventually to take in the top 350, is laying the foundation for an eventual division.

Clearly the demands of the likes of Glaxo Wellcome, capitalised at £71bn, are far removed from those of the little cigar group Merrydown, with an £8.2m valuation.

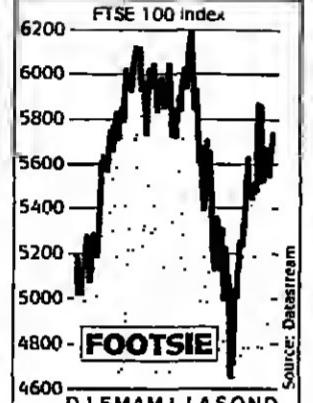
The requirements of institutional investors and private shareholders are also vastly different. Although there would obviously have to be cross-fertilisation, with big and small investors able to deal in both markets, a dual operation would have much to command it.

dent predictions that the world's banking system was on the brink of collapse.

As Footsie plunged, those earlier so-confident forecasts were pulled back. Bob Semple and David McBain at BT Alex Brown, for example, revised their year-end estimate to 5,500.

The worries which created the autumn retreat have now

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Source: Datastream

faded. Still the problems of Asia and Russia have not gone away, and sterling, despite a cracking run of base rate cuts, remains resolutely strong. But the banking crisis was a hysterical illusion and it would be surprising if the Clinton affair is not now largely factored into calculations.

Although Footsie has, helped by the sheer weight of investment cash sloshing around the system, recovered

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR DIARY

TODAY - Interims: Peel Holdings. AGMs: Govett Strategic, Jupiter Extra Income, Newcastle United, Reflex, Silver Shield. EGMS: Errington, Fleming Mercantile Investment Trust, McCarthy & Stone, Medsys, Natural Building Properties Partnership. Economics: UK final GDP (Q3), UK balance of payments (Q3).

TUESDAY - Finals: Kelsey Industries. AGMs: Babcock International, CH Bailey. Economics: US Federal Open Market Committee meeting.

WEDNESDAY - Tokyo markets closed. Interims: Stewart & Wright. AGMs: Enterprise Capital. EGMS: Hillside Holdings, Jupiter Geared Capital, Yeoman Investment Trust.

THURSDAY (Christmas Eve) - London Stock Exchange closes at 12.30.

FRIDAY - Christmas Day.

MONDAY 28 December - Bank holiday.

TUESDAY - Nothing scheduled.

WEDNESDAY - London Stock Exchange closes at 12.30. AGMs: Galaxy Media. EGMS: Fire Indmar, Plasmon. Economics: Nationwide house price survey (Dec), BBA mortgage lending (Nov).

NEW YEAR'S EVE - London Stock Exchange closed all day.

NEW YEAR'S DAY - Bank holiday.

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Music sample strikes a note of contention

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK



Massive Attack: their song 'Black Milk' is the subject of plagiarism allegations

MANFRED MANN (real name Manfred Lubowitz), the popular musician and songwriter who found fame and fortune with his eponymous band in the 1960s, is suing the extremely trendy group Massive Attack for alleged plagiarism.

Mr Mann says that in 1971 he composed a song called "Tribute", which he recorded with Manfred Mann's Earth Band.

Then in May this year Virgin issued an album by Massive Attack, "Mezzanine", which carried a track entitled "Black Milk".

Mr Mann says this track is about 128 bars long. His writ

claims: "In 100 out of these approximately 128 bars there was incorporated by the Group Massive Attack, in an identically or substantially identical form, a repeated two-bar extract taken from the recording by a process known as digital sampling."

Indeed it could be argued

that the computerised order book, currently embracing 125 shares and intended eventually to take in the top 350, is laying the foundation for an eventual division.

Under the Data Protection Act, in certain circumstances a service provider, such as BT, can be forced by the courts to divulge the identity of a subscriber to a third party, overriding their

rights to client confidentiality.

Last Tuesday the court sup-

plied the application, and BT handed over the name and address to the drinks compa-

nies, which is continuing its

investigations. The name of the person concerned remains con-

fidential.

THE USE OF "CHINESE WALLS" by

accountants, lawyers, invest-

ment banks and other profes-

sional firms will have to be

re-examined following a land-

mark ruling in favour of Prince

Jeffri of Brunel in his case

against KPMG.

Prince Jeffri, younger brother

of the Sultan of Brunei, hired

KPMG in 1997 to review his own

finances. This year the Brunei

Investment Authority (BIA)

SPORT

Return to France '98: Of the 32 teams that entered last summer's finals only 10 still have the same man in charge.



Faces of the departed: (left to right) Carlos Alberto Parreira, sacked by Saudi Arabia; Cesare Maldini, resigned as Italy coach; Mario Zagallo, sacked by Brazil; and Aimé Jacquet, who has finished his France contract

Empics/Allsport

No fun on World Cup merry-go-round

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

THEY ARRIVE needing one thing above all — time. In a few weeks they discover that this is the one element in short supply and are shown the door. Most have their contracts paid in full but have lost their pride, a commodity more precious than any amount of cash.

Christmas is a traditional time for the sack — but not the one that Santa carries. Six months after the World Cup finals, only 10 — soon to become nine — national coaches of the 32 teams that entered last summer's finals are still in their jobs, a poignant reminder of the fragility of a profession that yields handsome rewards but scant regard for reputations.

While no one was the least surprised when, say, Bulgaria's Hristo Bonev resigned after a woefully poor World Cup campaign, considerable sympathy has to be extended to the coaches of nations such as Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia and South Korea, all of whom were out of office before the final game on July 12.

Parreira's sacking, said Robson, was particularly unfair: "The fact is that Saudi Arabia had done quite well for 70 minutes against France until the dismissal. Then they huddled

and Carlos Alberto is the fall guy. That's unrealistic."

Parreira, who was linked with the vacant South Africa job before it went to a local, Trott Moloto, was not the only fall guy. By the end of France '98, Henryk Kasperczak of Tunisia had gone, along with Cha Burn-kun of South Korea, Bora Milutinovic of Nigeria and Philippe Troussier, who has transferred his allegiance from South Africa to Japan. Later, and more fa-

mously, others were forced out, including Mario Zagallo of Brazil and Berti Vogts of Germany.

Parreira, unlike some of his colleagues, took it all in his stride. He knew from his time with Brazil the unpredictable nature of being a football manager. He also knew how relentless the pressure could be.

When in the hot seat of one of the most high-profile football jobs in the world, Parreira had to endure a terrible pasting

from the Brazilian press when things went wrong. Going to Saudi Arabia had its own pressures but it was light years away from what he endured in Rio.

"I remember how Graham Taylor was vilified in the English tabloids after England failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals," said Parreira. "That was nothing compared to what can happen in Brazil. They expect all the

country's political ills to be solved through football."

Parreira, like Robson, is now biding his time, as is Vogts, whose miserable reign as national coach of Germany came to a sad and abrupt end in early September.

German managers rarely, if ever, quit. Indeed, there have only ever been six in the last 72 years. So when Vogts announced that he wanted to call it a day to preserve some "human dignity"

and spare his family the kind of intolerable pressure that was being heaped upon him, you knew he meant it.

With several of his senior players privately rebelling against him and headlines such as "Berti, how much longer?" appearing in the national press, Vogts cut his losses and called it quits, the first time any German manager had done so in mid-season.

And yet, he had only lost 12 games as national team coach out of 102. "The way everyone complained, you'd have thought it was only 12 that I had won," said the embittered Vogts, who has been replaced by the experimental and far from convincing pairing of Erich Ribbeck and Uli Stielike.

Whether by good fortune or good judgement, Glenn Hoddle, so far at least, is one of the 10 who have survived. So is Craig Brown and, somewhat surprisingly, Georges Leekens of Belgium.

Any day now, Chile's Nelson Acosta looks likely to be discarded and become number 23 on the World Cup discard list. Hold on, wasn't Chile who performed so solidly against the Italians at France '98 and made more friends than arguably any other team?

Christmas cheer? Don't believe it.

TOMORROW

Glenn Hoddle looks back at England's World Cup

Curley's gamble with his life

Barney Curley
Giving a Little Back
By Nick Townsend
Collins Willow £15.99

BOOK OF THE WEEK

IF A SINGLE word could be found to unravel the enigma that is Barney Curley, it would be faith. In equal measure, his religion (Roman Catholic) and self-belief are the secrets of his success and notoriety and, his family apart, the most important things in a life that has, in its time, turned the traditionally conservative world of horse racing on its head.

Curley, born in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, in 1939 into a non-racing family, has become one of the most ferocious gamblers of recent times. But there is much more to him than that. His father was ruined by gambling (greyhounds, rather than horses) and young Barney, though interested in betting, was studying to become a Jesuit when he contracted TB and, for a time,

had to close to death. When he finally recovered, more than a year later, he decided that the priesthood was not for him and determined to try and make a living by betting, while attempting to avoid his father's fate. Along the way he became manager of three successful showbands, without having any knowledge of showbusiness or pop music.

His early gambling lessons were painful ones, but he learned to watch and read horses and races as well as any trainer, a profession whose ranks he would eventually join. His first coup, which has become part of Irish racing folklore, was landed in 1975 when, without breaking a single rule, he relieved the bookmakers of £300,000 with a hurdler called Yellow Sam. It was a brilliant

success over the water fol-

lowed swiftly, as did controversy, and author Nick Townsend chronicles several other huge gambles (mostly successful) as well as "The Graham Bradley Affair" and Curley's doomed attempt to be the punters' saviour with The Independent Racing Organisation, which attracted just 290 members.

Curley rarely speaks to the media. He has a deserved reputation for being difficult. But Townsend, over many strength-sapping months, has obviously gained his trust and provides us with an illuminating insight of a very private man and his secrets. One celebrated chain of stories originally decided not to carry the book, on the basis that not enough people had heard of Curley. When it appeared in the Irish best-sellers' list shortly after publication, a quick change of mind followed.

Good decision.

Len Gould

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- European Football Yearbook 1998-99, edited by Mike Hammond (Sports Projects, paperback, £23.95)
- Bleak and Blue - 22 Years at the Manchester Academy of Football Farce, Craig Winstanley (Sigma, paperback, £8.95)
- Addicted, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99)
- Jenny Pitman - The Autobiography (Partridge, hardback, £16.99)
- Turning Point, Sean Fitzpatrick and Duncan Johnstone (Penguin, hardback, £16.99)
- Elliott's Golf Form 1998, Keith Elliott (Portway Press, paperback, £20.00)
- Annuario del Calcio Mondiale 98-99, Salvatore Lo Presti (SET, hardback, £19.95)
- Playing at Home, John Aizlewood (Orion, hardback, £16.95)
- Blade Runners - Lives in Football, Gary Armstrong (Hampshire Press, hardback, £16.95)
- Pacemaker, Glenn McGrath with Daniel Lane (Ironbark, paperback, £14.95)

List compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530), and www.sportspages.co.uk

United can supplant Juve as favourites

SPORTS BETTING

BY IAN DAVIES

JUVENTUS, WHO struggled to qualify for the knock-out stages, are only mid-table in Serie A and have lost Alessandro Del Piero, their brilliant playmaker-striker for the season, are favourites for the European Cup by virtue of having drawn Olympiakos, the outsiders, in the quarter-finals.

With a training regime designed to bring their squad to peak fitness only in the new year, and free to dip into the transfer market at that point, the side that won the 1996 European Cup and should have accounted for the inferior Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid in 1997 and this year should make the semi-finals.

However, unless Juventus have found their stride both domestically and in Europe by that point, the favourites by the semi-final stage will be the winners of the Manchester

	C	H	L	S	T
Ajax	10-3	5-2	7-2	10-3	31-1
Internazionale	4-1	5-1	5-2	5-2	4-1
Real United	9-2	4-1	5-1	4-1	4-1
Bayern Munich	5-1	4-1	4-1	5-2	16-2
Real Madrid	4-1	6-1	4-1	5-1	5-1
Dynamo Kiev	9-1	9-1	4-1	6-1	10-1
Kaiserslautern	12-1	28-1	12-1	14-1	7-1
Olympiques	28-1	46-1	25-1	26-1	35-1

Ball displays strength of 'dying breed'

"SEX & CHOCOLATE for a quid!" came the exhortation outside St Andrew's. It turned out to be a fanzine sales pitch rather than a saucy solicitation, but if the ensuing struggle did little for the erogenous zones or sweet teeth, it certainly warmed 22,000 hearts.

There are few occasions when the rival supporters, players and managers share a glow of satisfaction after a goalless draw, yet this was one. Sunderland maintained both their substantial lead in the First Division and Britain's only unbeaten away record, while the way Birmingham tested their mettle confirmed them as play-off candidates at the very least.

If the home side had more of the match territorially, forcing 11 corners to three, all but one of the better scoring opportunities belonged to Sunderland. The fluctuating nature of the contest was embodied by Gary Rowett, the right-back Birmingham bought from Derby in August, who went from the ridiculous to the sublime in the space of three minutes in the closing stages.

Touted by his manager, Trevor Francis, as worthy of Glenn Hoddle's consideration in a position where England have relatively limited options, Rowett found himself in the heart of Sunderland's six-yard area with the ball at his feet. Swinging first with his left and then with his right, he failed to connect with either.

Instead, he toppled over on to his backside as if struck by a sniper. Francis generously suggested the ball might have stuck in the mud. Rowett, refreshingly willing to laugh at himself as he watched his aberration replayed on television, called it "just one of those things".

The chance to make amends

FOOTBALL

BY PHIL SHAW

Birmingham City 0
Sunderland 0

came almost immediately. A superb pass by one of Sunderland's substitutes, Gavin McCann, enabled Daniele Dicchio to flick the ball past the goalkeeper, Kevin Poole. As it rolled towards the net, Rowett materialised, a trifle nonchalantly for the more highly strung Birmingham fans, to shepherd it to safety.

The game's most influential performer went about his work in less dramatic fashion. Kevin Ball, Sunderland's captain and midfield anchor, won more tackles in an afternoon than many players make in a season, prompting his coach, Adrian Heath, to hail him as "a true pro, one of a dying breed".

Ball might not have challenged for the ball with quite the same aggression had the referee, Mark Halsey, not neglected to caution him for an early foul on Dale Atchella. That said, Mr Halsey seldom missed any indiscretion but waited for a judicious moment to have a discreet word with the culprit. His approach allowed the match to build up a head of steam; only the excellence of the defences stopped it from reaching the boil.

Sunderland would have to suffer the kind of collapse in which England's cricketers specialise to miss out on a Premiership return for the second season running. Up front, the free-scoring Kevin Phillips is close to fitness after a three-month absence. At the back, bolstered by Niall Quinn's height at set-pieces, they have also kept six successive clean sheets.

Birmingham are a far more sophisticated side than the one bequeathed by Barry Fry. Churchill as it may sound so soon after their second seven-goal away win this year, at Oxford a week earlier, the key to whether they can end their 13-year exile from the top section could lie in Francis' capacity to coax greater menace from his attackers.

Birmingham City (4-4-2): Poole; Rowett, Ablett, Johnson, Marsh (Mas), McCann, O'Connor, Robinson, Neal, Furlong (substitutes not used: Foster, Hughes, Sunderland (4-4-2); Scerri, Makin, McEvie, Butler, Scott Rae (Williams, 72); Ball, Clark, Gray (McCann, 72); Bridges, Dicchio, 79). Referee: M Halsey (Wetherside Garden). Bookings: Sunderland: Rae, Butler. Man of the match: Ball. Attendance: 22,095.

Attendance: 22,095

After just four defeats in 60 League games, Peter Reid's assertion that his team were "hard to beat" was a statement of what Basil Fawlty called "the bleedin' obvious". The Sunderland manager admitted Rowett's blunder was "a bit of luck" but he argued that it was well earned. "Trevor's got a good side here," he said. "It's a hard place to get a result."

Francis, who played alongside Reid for England and made him one of his first recruits as a manager with Queen's Park Rangers, was "not too unhappy" with one point. "Sunderland are the outstanding team in the division and will win the championship convincingly. But I don't think we could have been any more positive."

However, when the mutual respect abated he may have reflected on Birmingham's failure to get behind the visitors' full-backs, and on the patchy showing by his muscular forwards, Adeboye and Paul Furlong, who punched their weight only spasmodically.

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However, when the mutual respect abated he may have reflected on Birmingham's failure to get behind the visitors' full-backs, and on the patchy showing by his muscular forwards, Adeboye and Paul Furlong, who punched their weight only spasmodically.

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THAT WAS THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

EDITED BY JON CULLEY

Bristol's foreign legion cope with culture shock

BRISTOL CITY, with only two wins in 12 League games following Saturday's defeat at Norwich, have an unashamed policy of buying foreign in hopes of buying the lower reaches of the First Division.

They believe that the domestic market is simply too expensive, and in the last fortnight alone have bought the Hungarian defender Vilmos Sebok, the Danish goalkeeper Bo Andersen and the Norwegian midfielder Kenneth Storvik, the combined fees adding up to less than £1m.

But tawling talent from the far corners of Europe is not without its problems, and language barriers are only part of the culture shock.

When Ion Tismaneanu, the Moldovan international captain due to launch his City career after Christmas, arrived for transfer talks at Ashton Gate, he was less concerned with wages than with how many times he would be allowed to see his wife. "Apparently, players in Moldova don't get to see their families more than four times a year," Eogland.

Taylor reluctantly joins silent order

AFTER BEING rushed to hospital for emergency surgery on a throat abscess, the former England manager Graham Taylor is grateful just to be back on his feet. But he is, none the less, having to suffer a kind of football manager's purgatory. He is not allowed to shout.

Taylor left touchline duties to his assistant, Kenny Jackett, at Grimsby on Saturday, and watched the Nationwide League match from the Blundell Park directors' box.

"I'm under strict orders to do what the doctor tells me," Taylor said. "And that includes resting my voice."

Naturally, it was left to Jackett to deliver the half-time

rollickings in the dressing-room. But, to add to Taylor's frustrations, he was helpless to intervene as Watford fell behind four minutes into the second half and then conceded a late Grimsby winner after Giffon Noel-Williams had more than four times a year."

KEY NUMBERS

- 9 the years since Chelsea last led the top division (First or Premiership) of the English leagues.
- 12 Nottingham Forest's run of failures to keep a clean sheet.
- 18 The meetings since Tottenham last managed a League win over Chelsea
- 68 Middlesbrough's wait – in years for a win at Old Trafford. Before Saturday, the last was in 1930.

I TOLD YOU SO

We are not in crisis. We are at a turning point

Gérard Houllier, speaking before Saturday's 2-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday. So far, so good – but will it last?

PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE WEEK

RORY DELAP	DAN PETRESCU
Deby County	Chelsea
NATHAN BLAKE	
Blackburn Rovers	
JAMIE REDKNAPP	
Liverpool	
BRIAN DEANE	
Middlesbrough	
GUSTAVO POVET	
Chelsea	
STEPHEN GLASS	
Newcastle United	
DEAN GORDON	
Middlesbrough	

Manager of the weekend: Gianluca Vialli, the first manager to take Chelsea to the top since Bobby Campbell in 1989-90.

Performance of the weekend: Middlesbrough's splendid victory at Old Trafford, their first on Manchester United's home turf since 1930.

Missing... making it... and mistaken



OYVIND LEONHARDSEN

LIVERPOOL

Signed for £3.5m from Wimbledon in June 1997, the 28-year-old midfielder capped his first season at Anfield by helping Norway reach the second phase of France '98. However, he has failed to find favour with the Rovers first team. A clever ball player already recognised at international level, he will provide hot competition for new arrival of Keith Gillespie at Ewood Park.



DAMIEN JOHNSON

BLACKBURN

Born in Lishorn, Northern Ireland, the 20-year-old wide midfielder first caught the eye during a loan spell with Nottingham Forest last season and has become a frequent member of the Rovers first team. A clever ball player already recognised at international level, he will provide hot competition for new arrival of Keith Gillespie at Ewood Park.



Frank Warren

Under-pressure Barcelona coach Van Gaal could use some Frank advice on boxing clever. But if surviving life's ups and downs is the name of the game then the cerebral Dutchman will no doubt find Frank's his man.



Louis van Gaal

Today: Aston Villa, whose victory over Arsenal last weekend was their first in five Premiership matches, bid to return to the top by winning the title. Our fixtures are among five clubs beginning to lose touch with the rest of the division.

Tomorrow: In a quiet build-up to Christmas, Notts County's home tie with Hull City in the first round of the Auto Windscreen Shield (Northern) may be the most important one in the country before Boxing Day. None the less, a rush for tickets at Meadow Lane is not anticipated.

Saturday: The usual assortment of funny kick-off times as Arsenal meet West Ham at Upton Park, Birmingham at St Andrews, Coventry (v Tottenham), Liverpool (v Derby), Middlesbrough (v Forest), Middlesbrough (v Liverpool), Newcastle (v Leeds) and Sheffield Wednesday (v Leekester). The People believe Ward will go if Barnsley succeed in a film move for young York striker Richard Cresswell. The News of the World, meanwhile, suggests Leeds are after Coven-

RUMOURS

Kidd keen to lure Butt to Blackburn

BRIAN KIDD wants to prise Nicky Butt away from Manchester United, according to the People. The new Blackburn manager, their story says, offered £5.5m within days of leaving Old Trafford and is now ready to up his bid to £7m. The Sunday Mirror says he is ready to offload Kevin Davies to help finance incoming deals, but reckons his targets are Barnsley's Ashley Ward and West Ham's John Hartson. Kidd is also keen on United defenders David May and Henning Berg – both ex-Blackburn – according to the Express.

The Express says Ward remains a target for Leeds and Sheffield Wednesday, who, the People thinks, have turned down a £2m offer from Charlton for Andy Booth. The People believes Ward will go if Barnsley succeed in a film move for young York striker Richard Cresswell. The News of the World, meanwhile, suggests Leeds are after Coven-

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THE WEEK AHEAD

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FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Pl	Pts	Home			Away			5-game form			Upcoming matches	
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F		
1	Chelsea	18	33	+12	6	3	0	15	5	2	6	1 14 12 DWDDW
2	Aston Villa	17	33	+10	6	2	1	17	11	3	4	1 10 6 LDDLW
3	Man Utd	18	31	+12	6	3	1	24	12	2	4	2 12 11 WDDDL
4	Middlesbrough	18	30	+9	4	5	0	15	7	3	4	2 15 14 WDDWW
5	Leeds	18	29	+12	6	2	1	16	3	1	6	2 13 14 WLWWT
6	Arsenal	18	29	+9	5	4	0	14	4	2	4	3 6 7 LDLLW
7	West Ham	18	29	0	5	3	-1	14	10	3	2	4 8 12 WWLWL
8	Wimbledon	18	26	-6	5	3	1	14	9	2	2	5 9 20 LWLWLW
9	Liverpool	18	25	+7	4	3	-2	17	10	3	1	5 12 12 WWLWJ
10	Newcastle	18	24	+1	5	2	2	14	10	1	4	4 8 11 LNDDW
11	Leicester	18	24	+1	5	2	-2	14	9	1	4	4 7 11 LDWWL
12	Derby	18	24	+1	2	5	2	8	8	3	4	2 10 9 LWDDW
13	Tottenham	18	23	-5	4	3	-2	15	15	2	2	5 8 13 WLWDL
14	Sheff Wed	18	22	+1	5	2	2	13	5	1	2	6 7 14 DLJWL
15	Everton	18	22	-5	2	3	-2	3	5	3	2	4 9 12 WWDWL
16	Charlton	17	16	-5	2	3	2	13	8	1	4	5 9 19 DLLLL
17	Coventry	16	16	-11	3	3	-3	10	11	1	1	7 5 15 LDLLD
18	Blackburn	18	14	-9	3	2	4	10	10	0	3	6 7 16 LLWDD
19	Southampton	18	13	-20	2	2	5	12	18	1	2	6 3 17 WLWLL
20	Nottm Forest	18	12	-15	1	5	3	8	11	1	1	7 9 21 LDLLD

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Pl	Pts	Home			Away			5-game form			Upcoming matches
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	
1	Sunderland	24	53	9	2	25	6	6	6	0 24	9 WLWWD
2	Ipswich	24	45	33	7	1	4	15	7	6	5 18 8 WDWLW
3	Bradford City	23	40	52	7	2	2	26	12	5	2 5 16 15 LLWWM
4	Watford	24	40	42	6	5	1	19	12	5	2 5 23 23 WDDWL
5	Norwich	23	40	39	6	4	-1	22	13	5	3 4 17 17 LWDDW
6	Bolton	23	39	44	7	3	2	26	14	3	6 2 18 18 WWLWD
7	Birmingham	24	39	37	5	5	-2	17	10	6	1 5 20 14 LWLWD
8	Huddersfield	24	38	35	8	3	1	23	12	3	2 7 12 28 WLWLW
9	Grimsby	24	38	30	4	1	-2	10	18	4	4 7 10 18 WLWWM
10</td											

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Diana was trash,
homosexuality is an
illness, love's a fallacy:
Quentin Crisp is
approaching his
naughty 90th birthday,
but he's lost none
of his sauce

Old Spice

To survive at all was an adventure. To reach old age was a miracle." So wrote Quentin Crisp in his autobiography 30 years ago, when he was not even an old-age pensioner. What explanatory words are left to describe the fact that this Christmas Day Quentin Crisp will not only be 90 years old, but will open that night in a new one-man show on Broadway? Mind-boggling? Unnatural? Creepy? Or does it simply bear out his belief that there is no such thing as long-term bad luck?

Quentin Crisp was only 58 years old when I first met him in a West End café, but he came across even then as a figure of faded, cobwebby grandeur, already making jokes about being old, saying, "At the end of the run, you can overact outrageously". I remember he wore silver sandals with high heels, women's slacks and a great deal of make-up. His pale-blue dyed hair was piled up into those star-like bouffant waves that innumerable feature writers were soon to struggle to describe. His face looked both male and female, noble and ignoble, depraved and imperious. In recent times, I have spotted in the ageing Baroness Thatcher some of Quentin Crisp's outrageous haughtiness.

By the time I met him, Quentin Crisp had already had an extraordinary existence. The precise details of his self-inflicted martyrdom slowly became apparent. Born the wettest of weaklings, he had been an impossible child and a monstrous show-off. Perpetually suicidal and ill-equipped for living, he was unemployable, unfit even to make tea - "I would have made a bady," he says.

As early twentys, he worked briefly as a male prostitute, but was no good at this either. Then, suddenly, he took several steps over the brink and became a self-evident homosexual, "a terrible painted figure prancing the streets", who was kicked, spat at and beaten up. "Nothing can describe the hatred and the terror and the trouble that I caused," he later told one of his many interviewers.

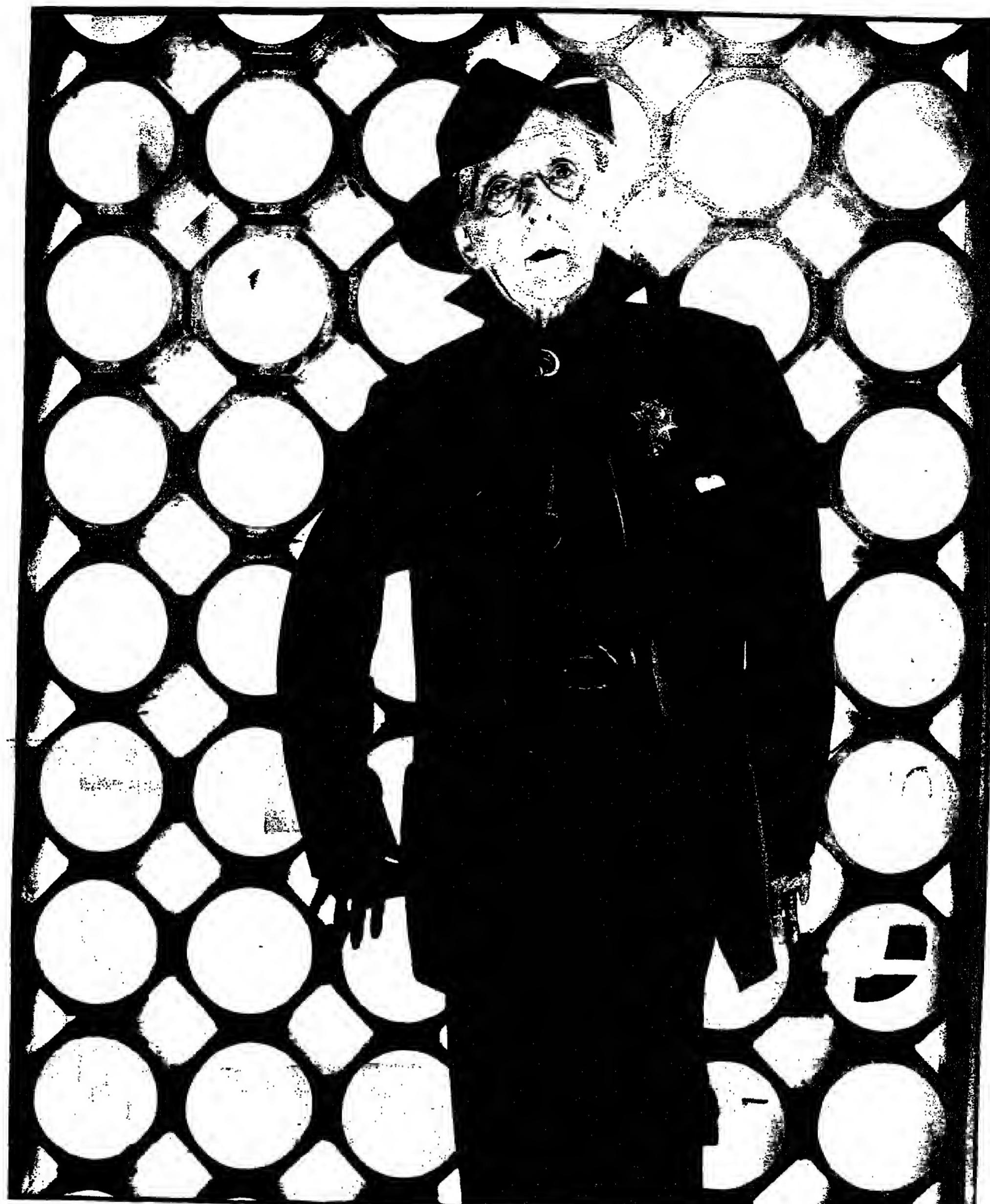
The bedsit in Beaufort Street, Chelsea, where Quentin had lived since the summer of 1940, was a revelation. His joke about the dust not getting any worse after a few years has long since found its way into various dictionaries of quotations. The poet Philip O'Connor spoke of "that infernal kitchen" and Crisp himself boasted that his home was "a kind of curtain-raiser for *The Rocky Horror Show*". It was at he lived off a food substitute called Nomac, recharged his batteries and, in his own words, was his "horrible self".

Bare-footed and clad in a dressing gown shiny with grease, which barely covered his buttocks, he also welcomed all callers with great zest. "Rush in, sit down," he might say, then "Flop about on the bed." Visitors might be offered "a cup of pale grey coffee" or "some old toast".

I found Quentin was happy to talk for hours there, elevating or demoting his circle of acquaintances to a sort of village gentility or obscurity by never mentioning their first names. He talked about a certain Mr Flipcroft, a Miss Lumley "who can do no wrong"; a Miss Miller "who has the nerve to teach art appreciation". Whenever I left, Quentin would run down the stairs like a 10-year-old, turn on the hall light and bid me: "Call again. Incessantly." These were catch-phrases he used for everybody. Over the next 14 years I called on Quentin Crisp frequently, if not incessantly, and watched as he became famous.

His first step into the limelight came with the publication in 1968 of his autobiography, *The Naked Civil Servant*. This was widely praised and reviewed, going briefly into the bestseller list, but it did not have any effect on his life, other than producing a regular stream of anonymous telephone calls - his number has always been listed - which he described with some relish as "appointments with fear".

When the film of his book was broadcast in December 1975, with John Hurt requiring five different wigs to play the title role, these calls became more urgent. Almost overnight, Quentin Crisp became a cult figure, "the mother superior of homosexuality" and much else besides. Taxi drivers who had once refused to carry him now asked for his autograph. Quentin took this all very calmly - "I expect to be forgotten soon," he told me. No such luck. In January 1978, Quentin Crisp opened in his one-man show at the Duke of York's Theatre in London, lecturing his packed audience about style with only a bentwood chair and a hatstand for company on



Barry J Holmes/Katz

stage. After great success, the show transferred to the Ambassador's Theatre. One person asked for their money back. Quentin paid up immediately.

hatted Mr Crisp looked like a little old witch. I did not know what to expect. What do 89-year-old men look like? Would I find a stick insect?

In the event, it was his feet and legs that I saw first as he descended the stairs of his building to let me in. For a worrying moment I thought that Quentin Crisp, the great stylist, had graduated to the leisure-wear and trainers beloved by octogenarians across the western world. But, no - Quentin was properly dressed in grey flannels and a tailored grey worsted jacket that I later discovered had been given to him by the supermodel Lauren Hutton. He

coped with the horrified reactions of friends who do not understand his lifestyle. Three times the police have been called, and once he was dragged off to hospital though there was nothing wrong with him.

Indeed, as Quentin settled on the bed and I took the only chair, so close to him that our knees kept touching. I reflected that he looks extraordinarily well. He wears less make-up than in the past. He has the actor's ability to turn it on. His gestures are deft and unhesitant. His head twists attentively and his voice is as full-throated as ever.

And so are his views. He continues to hate Oscar Wilde and Visconti's films, especially *Death in Venice*. His recent statement that Princess Diana was "trash" and "got what she deserved" generated letters telling him he was "a bitter, lonely old queen".

Quentin's chilly relationship with the gay community is another thorny and long-standing issue. He looks upon homosexuality as an illness and homosexuals as an inferior breed. Some time ago, he upset a Chicago audience by saying that the "obsession" with AIDS was a "fad". In America, he says, he has angered gay people but been accepted by "real" people. "And anyway," he adds with some bemusement, "it's now been explained to me that I'm not a homosexual. I'm a trans-something."

Quentin Crisp once said of the dirt in his London room: "It's just a question of keeping your nerve." To survive in his current abode must require nerves of steel, iron and flint. And he also has to

cope with the horrified reactions of friends who do not understand his lifestyle. Three times the police have been called, and once he was dragged off to hospital though there was nothing wrong with him. Indeed, as Quentin settled on the bed and I took the only chair, so close to him that our knees kept touching. I reflected that he looks extraordinarily well. He wears less make-up than in the past. He has the actor's ability to turn it on. His gestures are deft and unhesitant. His head twists attentively and his voice is as full-throated as ever.

On 25 December, Quentin Crisp steps on to the stage of the Intar theatre on 42nd Street and, for the following six weeks, will "cast about for something to make the audience squeak". He will tell them how to be happy. He will also, no doubt, talk about death. His own death. He has been talking about his death since I first met him. "When it all ends," he'd say, "I'll get into my coffin and I'll sleep." Suicide has always attracted him - "The last graceful flourish of someone whose style has been completely mastered" - but it might not provide the "significant death" he yearns for. Last month, he declared, "It would be nice to be murdered". Whatever one makes of this claim, it would provide another spooky connection with his fellow birthday boy.

Deborah Ross is on holiday

BY ANDREW BARROW

was smaller, portlier; but his great beehive of hacked-back white hair was as impressive as ever.

His room knocks his old place in Beaufort Street into a cocked hat. It's smaller to start with and, instead of having windows looking on to a leafy London street, there is only the darkened well of the building to contemplate. It is more like a disused workshop than a bedroom, clogged with possessions, coated with grime. Bottles of make-up, fixative medicine and, thank God, a bottle of champagne, hog the floor along with a discarded shirt.

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THE INDEPENDENT

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He should go. He won't go. And we'll be the worse for it

THE FIRST casualty of America's impeachment crisis is Tony Blair. As Bill Clinton hunkered down in Washington, Britain's Prime Minister came on ever more strongly in London as the military "victor" in the battle against Iraq.

It is a triumphalist he will have cause to regret. The bombing of Saddam Hussein was almost certainly not determined by Clinton's woes; but the high rhetoric of war and danger uttered while the Americans - with the British in tow - unleashed their might on Iraq night after night, was little more than obscene.

"Politics has become a substitute for violence," said Vice-President Al Gore on the White House lawn in fury after the impeachment vote. But whatever politics has become, violence is still unsubstituted - at least so far as the West "punishing" a Third World country is concerned.

But then it is the sheer unreality of events that has marked more than anything else the events of the last four days: the gap between the grave words of war and the arms-length, fully televised bombardment that followed; the distance between the magnitude of impeachment and the offence of philandering. To the politicians concerned, this may seem the most important, the most historic moment of their lives: Blair in his war bunker, and the Republicans taking over the articles of impeachment to the Senate. To the public at large, however, it has all the elements of boys playing games.

It is the gap between political reality and public perception which may well be the most important aspect of these events. Of course, there are real reasons for impeaching the President, just as there are real reasons for trying to destroy Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. The reality is that a US president in the eyes of the majority of people in Congress has lied under oath and acted to pervert the course of justice, however sordidly irrelevant the actual case.

It is all very well for Clinton's supporters to go on about how partisan has been the occasion, and how personalised. It has been partisan, in the very worst possible way. And it has displayed a personal loathing of President Clinton that is beyond any fair or reasonable manner of conducting affairs. But then politics in America has always been passionately partisan. The last president to be impeached, Andrew Johnson, was tried by the Senate on entirely political grounds. It has been a myth of Reagan and now Clinton to talk of consensus and "pulling together". Politics is about power and when power is up for grabs - as it always is in the final term of a president and even more so when that president has opened his flank for the attack - then the politics will get rougher.

Clinton's fault in these terms has not been to be too liberal, nor even that he sinned, but to have given the



impression that he didn't mind too much about it all. Given half a chance, he would bolt for the door and he up to his old tricks again as soon as no one was looking. The Republicans are determined that will not happen. Instead of encouraging censure as a painful lesson, Clinton's supporters have promoted it as a means of escape. And that, on present mood, the Congressional majority will not allow.

All this need not worry the US voter too much. America is a country of peculiar balances of power and unique resilience. It can survive a period of high temperatures in Washington without overheating in Kansas. Even Clinton - who in real policy terms has achieved remarkably little during his six years in office - could probably stumble on another two years continuing to do little more, shamed but not ashamed.

The world, however, will find it rather more difficult to cope not only with a passive America but one whose president is maligned and whose relations with the political establishment is so poisoned that he can deliver nothing

but the occasional jabs of his military. It shouldn't be so, but the end of the Cold War and the shifts in economic fortune have left the international scene in an unusual vacuum. American leadership, or at least the provision of American muscle, is needed.

The Middle East is the obvious example. Clinton's visit to the region to try and revive the dying peace process was marred from the start by his troubles at home. If it was not for those troubles, he would probably never have tried it. The superimposition of the Iraqi crisis, coincident although it was, has only made that failure the worse. While Clinton and Blair have talked of containment, the rest of the Middle East has simply seen further evidence of Arab humiliation and powerlessness before the West. The allies, said Tony Blair at the beginning, had no choice but to respond once Saddam Hussein had deliberately cocked a snook at the inspectorate and made a mockery of his promises of a few months ago. But even accepting this, which we shouldn't, "no

choice" is the very worst route of politics, still more of war. The lesson of this - and the lesson that Blair seems so reluctant to understand - is that the vacuum of international politics has to be filled by international institutions. The result of the bombardment of Iraq has been a diminution of the UN. Blair has been left alone on a stage which should never have been held by a duet in the first place. As Clinton has failed at home, so Blair's divorce from the rest of the world and the ridiculousness of Britain's position as America's mercenary has seemed more glaring.

As for Clinton, one can only despair. The very character - his buoyancy - that makes him determined to fight on is the very character that means his enemies will not rest until they have finished him. It's almost impossible to see compromise in these circumstances, or any conclusion that does not bear the seeds of its own poison.

He should resign. He won't resign. The world will be the worse for it, and Blair the littler.

Invitation to a beheading for the politicians of the next century



STEVE RICHARDS

Why do we impose such conditions on politicians' lives that deter all but the most driven or unhinged?

This is not to argue that politicians should be treated uncritically; far from it. This government with its large majority, intolerance of dissent and weak opposition needs to be subjected to the most intense scrutiny at all times, including when its expensive bombs (paid for by "the people's money") are heading for Iraq. The same applies in the US. Clinton's mendacity cried out to be exposed and punished. But some sense of proportion should also be retained. The lies have been exposed. Clinton has been punished and humiliated for months. Enough; he should be allowed to finish his term as the voters now wish and as they wanted when they re-elected him.

Of course some politicians merit the sneering cynicism with which they are viewed. There are bastards in politics as in any profession. But it is also true that many politicians could be earning infinitely more money in other jobs. At which point spare a thought, if you can face it so close to Christmas, for members of the Shadow Cabinet. I was not surprised to read the other day that John Redwood was contemplating leaving politics for a well-paid job elsewhere. Certainly his former adviser, Hywel Williams, told him to pack it in and make more money in the private sector after his leadership bid failed last year. I do not want to turn Redwood or Michael Howard into unlikely romantic heroes. Given the raw material, I would not succeed if I tried. Nor is there any need to shed a tear about their parlous financial states. But it should be noted that they are

staying on in opposition, knowing almost certainly that they will not taste power again, heading towards retirement issuing unred press releases. In October 1997, I asked Redwood why he was staying on.

"There has to be an opposition. Someone's got to do it," he said.

They are doing their duty and - unlike Labour in the early 1980s when most of the Shadow Cabinet seemed to be having a ball as the party headed towards oblivion - they do not even look as if they are enjoying it. There were also many Labour frontbenchers who could have earned much more elsewhere in the 1980s but stayed on in what many of them thought would be a forlorn attempt to revive their party.

With the media so vast and the opportunities in business so great, politics already faces immense competition for talent. Ken Livingstone observed after the Thatcherite assault on local government that anyone who wished to become a councillor should see a psychiatrist.

As a president faces a trial in the Senate and politicians in Britain live in fear of some infidelity or other being exposed, how many bright young things are going to opt for national politics in the new century? If the future crop of national politicians do not impress, we voters are largely to blame. We get the politicians we deserve. If we want better ones, we should never forget that the alternative to their manoeuvring is the resolution of dispute through battle. A rowdy debate in the Commons is an infinitely more pleasant spectacle than the rubble of a bombed building in Baghdad.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What we have done is to put him back firmly in the cage and secure it."

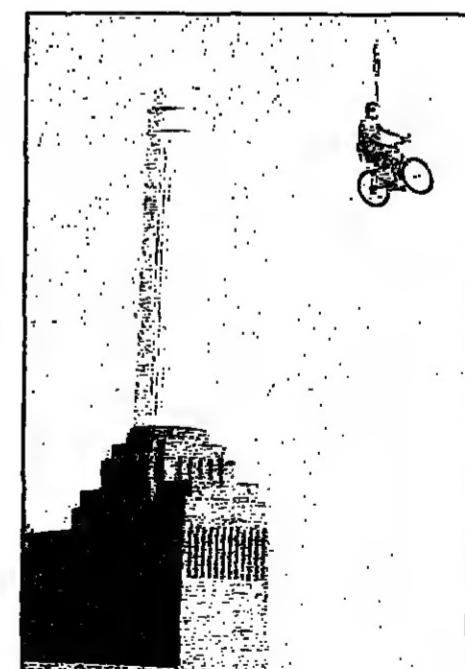
Tony Blair, on Saddam Hussein

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"I have been told I was on the road to hell, but I had no idea it was just a mile down the road with a dome on it."

Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States

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Bungee Jump by Kalpesh Lathigra

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

British press reaction to the impeachment of President Clinton by the US Congress

IN THE end, the issue is about the constitutional implications of resignation - and whether it is warranted by the seriousness of [Clinton's] offence. American voters have made their views clear on this - they want neither resignation nor impeachment. Unless and until that changes, Clinton should stay on. *The Observer*

CLINTON HAS lost the credibility he might have earned for other aspects of his presiden-

cy and is no longer fit to lead the Western world. The Republican Speaker-elect, Bob Livingston, showed him the way to go when he resigned from the House of Representatives [over] his extra-marital affair. It is time to show Bill the door, and say hello to Gore. *News of the World*

THE CRUDE Republican attempt to kick Mr Clinton out of office is particularly outrageous at this time of international cri-

sis. He has faced a trial rigged on party lines by right-wingers determined to drive him out of the presidency. Most [ordinary Americans] think he is doing a good job - and that far out-

weighs his affair with a young woman in the White House. *Sunday Mirror*

THOSE WHO still seek to defend [Clinton] on the grounds that

he should not have been impeached because of hanky-panky with an employee young enough to be his daughter totally miss the point. It is about America's chief law enforcement officer solemnly swearing to protect the country's system of law - then lying before a Federal Grand Jury and obstructing justice. *The Mail on Sunday*

MANY PEOPLE... forgot that America's authority in the

world depends on more than its physical strength. The integrity of the man in the Oval Office matters as much and Mr Clinton has been found wanting. If he survives a Senate trial, many will believe he has been allowed to mock the constitution he is charged to uphold.

Unlike that it is, Mr Clinton should go quietly before he inflicts further damage on his country, and allows Saddam the last, hollow laugh. *The Sunday Times*

PANDORA

IN A Commons debate on "competitiveness" last Wednesday, the nation's greatest living spin-doctor, DTI minister Peter Mandelson, was stunned by an Alien Force described by Mandelson himself later as "extra-planetary". Can anyone provide Pandora with a translation of Tory MP John Redwood's following statement? "Is the e-envoy in addition to the digital envoy announced a short while ago? Will those two gentlemen or ladies be in competition, or has the digital envoy been abolished before being approved, only to be replaced by the putative e-envoy? The whole thing is risible and muddled." Anyone have a Vulcan dictionary handy?

AS THE joyous Christmas television festival descends upon us, Pandora offers readers a few "must-see" tips. On Christmas Day, during *Before They Were Famous III* on BBC 1, don't miss the clip in which schoolboy David Beckham is shown juggling a football in front of a bunch of seated lads until he accidentally makes contact with one of their heads. Presenter Angus Deayton chimes in with: "David later claimed he never made contact with the lad, but if we carefully examine the video evidence I think we can see that he did." Isn't that hilarious? And if your sides aren't already split beyond repair, tune in on Boxing Day to BBC 2's profile "Are You Watching Jimmy Hill?", in which Terry Venables describes walking across the pitch with Jimmy at an Everton vs Liverpool match. The crowd began to chant "Jimmy Hill's a wanker, Jimmy Hill's a...". And what did Jimmy say? "They love me here." Oh yes, you'll laugh till you cry.

Is James Brown (pictured, in laddish days) beginning to show signs of strain? In *The Times* last Friday, the ex-editor of Loaded and now pinstripe-suited editor of GQ declared that "to



partake in the GQ lifestyle" it's not necessary to be wealthy or upper-class - "you just have to feel that you could rob a bank". It's to be hoped this won't be necessary, but the ex-New Lad certainly has a struggle on his hands. The magazine's total ABC news-trade sales figures for the period January-June 1997, just before Brown's arrival, were 111,547. The most recent figures, January-June 1998, were 104,481.

TAKI'S DIGNIFIED announcement in the current Spectator that he is to leave these shores - "I crap on cowardly pygmies like Cook, Mandelson and Straw, and will give up my British residence as soon as Palazzo Taki is ready in February" - threatens to cast the nation into mourning. In the meantime, news reaches Pandora of a triumph scored at a recent New York luncheon party by the astute Greek political and ethical commentator. While brandishing his cheque book, the lion-hearted Taki managed to face down such celebrity dwarves as novelist Norman Mailer, writer Gay Talese, actor Michael Douglas, Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Halberstam - all of whom lacked the courage to accept the Greek's political betting proposition. And what was the wager? Taki wanted to bet that Bill Clinton would not be impeached.

NOT LONG ago media luminary Janet Street-Porter sparkled regaled executives at an Institute of Sale Promotion lunch about her latest television commercial. She reported that she had been rewarded with £35,000 and an original Alexander McQueen dress from entertainment group ONdigital. The thrust of the ad took advantage of Janet's unique place in the public's affection, with her saying to camera: "Hello, I know you don't like me, but now you have a choice." Unfortunately, when Pandora finally reached Janet to discuss this original marketing ploy, Ms Street-Porter was not in her usual benevolent mood. "Stop harassing me," she rasped. "You're really irritating me. Go ahead and write what you like. I don't ever call back. I don't want to be in diaries." So it will be, darling.

ANTHONY HOPKINS, who last week covered the tabloids with statements that acting was driving him to a nervous breakdown and that he was giving it up to preserve his sanity, is a highly gifted film and stage actor, particularly in film where he famously demonstrates a rare talent for analysis of character. He peels back the skin of his roles, not unlike Hannibal Lecter, and pours himself inside them. He cannot, as many players do, stand outside and kick their characters around and he unaffected. No matter how successful *Silence of the Lambs* was, how clever his creation, it is possible that he may feel sullied and even damned by it.

If in my modest career I have been frequently singled out for a particular performance in some old Hollywood capper, how much more must Hopkins's ears be assaulted by fans who have now relegated the man's entire career to a sick-movie freak. Eventually you become who the public think you are, unless you are bolstered by a vital and supportive social structure, or have alternative means of re-identifying yourself, by taking up the reins of

production and selecting your own material. By his own admission Hopkins is a loner, preferring his own company, which is the prerogative of many hyper-creative and raw artists, but then he has no wedge of human flesh as a protective wall between him and the world. Acting per se does not make you mad, necessarily, unless you feel that you have vitiated your power or

corrupted your talents. Hopkins certainly hasn't done this to anything like the extent of his saner inferiors who wallow from junk to junk seemingly unaffected. However, these actors are not burdened with Hopkins's finer perceptions. Madness is directly linked to forcing a highly developed ego to swallow garbage. The more delicate the system, the more aggressive the sickness.

Monroe started to lose herself, as did Montgomery Clift, and a dozen more who were force-fed with the mulch that their talents had grown out of and were not strong enough to withstand. The actor is unique in a sense that the material used is his own body and soul. This makes him extraordinarily vulnerable. However, vulnerability can illuminate a character that the actor believes in and feels pride in serving. Conversely, humiliation can send an actor into a wobbly where the shame can only he anaesthetised by alcohol injection.

Madness for actors is par for the course. However, most great actors are extremely sane. They may suffer from hyper-awareness, having stretched their radar systems, since

[Hopkins's role in] *Remains of the Day* was a perfect performance any actor would have been proud of for years.

Nevertheless, without wishing to bang the hallelujah drum, theatre for an actor can be a great restorer; the baptismal river where your sins are washed off. That's why many a movie actor who was stage-trained likes to return to the font as a means of recovering their ego. There an actor's skill, sensitivity and power is tested to the limit and thus the personality re-identifies itself. Madness is a form of alienation from the soul.

And if I'm not mistaken, it was the theatre that helped restore Hopkins's career when he returned after years of Hollywood drift. At 60, Sir Anthony appears to be an actor in peak condition - maybe the answer is to have an occasional theatrical restorative. Olivier was still playing Othello at 60 and then Edgar in *Dance of Death* - a very suitable role for Hopkins. One of the good things about theatre is that it gives you a little time to dwell on your madness, but a great opportunity to use it.

An actor damned by his creation



STEVEN BERKOFF

Theatre can be a great restorer, the baptismal river where your sins are washed off

after a while, the scanner cannot be easily switched off. Obsessions, compulsions and perfectionism become a few of the many psychic disturbances that we are prone to. Some of us have managed to balance an acting life with writing or directing, thus the child becomes a parent able to create for others.

While theatre can be stress-making, a great and demanding role can be liberating and purging - an opportunity to vent all shades of emotion, including those of madness in the service of the character. This has a purgative effect. Since theatre usually deals with language in a heightened form the roles you are playing are likely to enhance rather than deflate or humiliate.

You cannot feel shame playing Lear, Hamlet, Macbeth or Chekov. You might feel pride, he heartened, even ennobled and believe yourself to be an emissary of literature, a communicator or a teacher. An intelligent audience confirms you as their guide - their Prometheus carrying the fire of inspiration. A bunch of spotty popcorn eaters slurping Pepsi and watching *Silence of the Lambs* is not likely to do that, but

Nothing has felt quite right about the attacks on Iraq



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Why were Saddam's neighbours not urging us on, providing help and rejoicing in our success?

ever its faults. In which case, one wonders what we are doing there.

We used to be told that intervention was necessary to protect our oil supplies. Now that there is a glut - so that even last week the oil price continued to fall - this is no longer put forward as a reason.

Instead, we are asked to consider a more general point. While other countries possess weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, with Saddam there is one big difference - he has used them, not once but repeatedly. Left unchecked, Saddam will use these terrible weapons again. This is a proposition with seeming power. It implies that the international community cannot and should not tolerate murderous dictators holding such weapons. Except that three members of the five permanent members of the Security Council - France, Russia and China - do not agree that Saddam is such a worrying case. Nor do we receive any support worth having from our European partners. Germany's backing is tepid to the point of meaninglessness. The rest are silent. The moral case receives no support from other countries like ourselves.

This is very peculiar. One explanation would be that our European neighbours do not believe that Saddam's Iraq is such a terrible threat. They note that of Saddam's 950 short- and medium-range missiles that he had acquired before 1991, all have been found and destroyed. Thus he lacks conventional means of projecting chemical or biological material beyond his borders.

An alternative interpretation is that France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the rest simply do not believe in the efficacy of aerial assault. The snatches of film of bombs hitting their targets which the Ministry of Defence shows every day are not



A US airman writes a 'goodwill' message on a missile EPA

convincing. We have no idea whether the target has been correctly identified or whether it contains what it is said to contain. Did we destroy any Republican Guards or the "drones of death" as the Secretary of State, George Robertson, calls the unmanned aircraft which Saddam is supposed to be constructing?

Likewise we are asked to believe that Saddam can only maintain his power by using a "command and control" system and this we have severely damaged. But in the past, dictators have generally got along without such sophisticated communications networks.

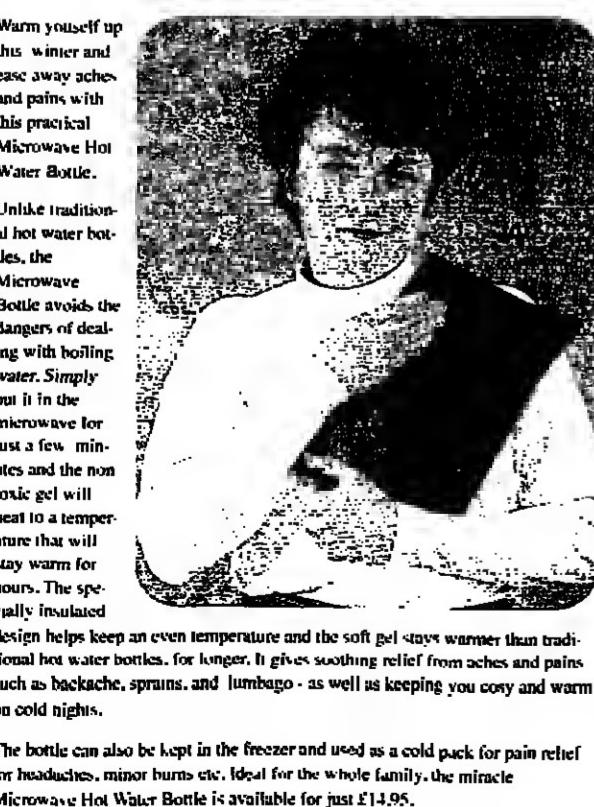
It may also be the case that our neighbours' withholding of support is explained by their embarrassment. For they see American policy as cruel and counter-productive. Cruel because some Iraqi civilians have undoubtedly been killed or injured during the past few days, and cruel because the policy of economic sanctions has reduced Iraq to a state of malnutrition and disease.

As Robert Fisk reported on Friday, Dennis Halliday, who ran the UN oil-for-food programme in Baghdad, resigned when he realised that thousands of Iraqi children were dying every month because of sanctions. He commented: "We are in the process of destroying an entire society ... it is illegal and immoral."

And counter-productive, because dictators often generate loyalty by standing up to and fighting a wicked external enemy, the Great Satan in some form or other. On this reading, Saddam will have been delighted by Anglo-American resolve to maintain sanctions and patrol the Gulf. Not so much "Oh, what a lovely enemy!" but "Oh, what a lovely enemy!"

It has been a strange few days for this country. We really need to understand why we received scarcely any backing from countries with whom we have much in common, and whose leaders and citizens are in constant touch with us. What do they perceive which we do not?

What have we understood which they have failed to comprehend? What is the meaning of this episode, where nothing rings true?

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Protectionism may follow the euro

THE ADVOCACY of European integration has gained much from its alliance with the free trade doctrine derived from Ricardo, which proved such a powerful intellectual weapon in the 19th century. Even before the creation of the European Economic Community, the European Payments Union was designed to facilitate trade. Then the Economic Community itself had as one of its major initial objectives the removal of tariffs between the members. Although this was strikingly - and speedily successful - it soon became apparent that "non-tariff barriers" - meaning principally product quality and safety regulation - were imposing costs in trade of the same type as tariffs previously had.

Thus the Internal Market Programme, or the "1992 Project" as it came to be known, was devised to remove these barriers as well. Monetary Union should be seen as a further step along this road in two respects. First, the removal of transaction costs in trade eliminates one further barrier. But second, it has become commonplace in Continental

Europe to argue that the completion of the internal market makes monetary union urgent because in its absence, countries are likely to seek to use exchange rate depreciations to increase their export market. Thus, exchange rate protection is seen to be the new threat, once non-tariff barriers have been removed. The same basic argument is applied to the Social Chapter, and most recently to tax harmonisation.

One can hardly fail to be impressed by these developments in Europe. The achievement of such a high degree of free trade is impressive in its own right and - at least from a certain perspective - one must be impressed by the depth of integration which has proven so welcome to much of the Continent. However, the outlook for free trade may not be so positive. On the course on which the European Union is heading, it is in danger of playing into the hands of protectionist elements. This is by no means exclusively a consequence of monetary union, but it is significantly so, and the dangers of substantial moves towards protectionism grow as integration deepens. Nor is

there anything uniquely European in the dangers. Nation states are subject to many of the same pressures, but I believe the European Union is poorly placed to deal with them, and consequently, more likely to be susceptible to them.

The history of European integration reveals that the member states continue to perceive an interest in protectionism. In the celebrations that attended the success of the

1992 Project's removal of non-tariff barriers, a question rarely asked was why such a programme was necessary. Or alternatively, why had non-tariff barriers not been removed along with tariff barriers in the early 1960s, if they were agreed to be equivalent in their effects?

The answer that non-tariff barriers only became a substantial problem after the removal of tariffs. It does not take much imagination to see that they also became a problem because of the removal of tariffs. The problem was that the means of protection (tariffs) had been removed, but the motives for it (whatever precisely they may be) had not.

So it should be recognised that the creation of the Customs Union - although surely desirable - operated in part in the manner of treating symptoms. The underlying causes of protection remained.

Europe has been blighted by unemployment throughout the 1980s and 1990s. The causes of this can be argued about. One popular view is that a "rigidity" of labour markets is to blame. I find it difficult to take that seriously since the extent to which any European labour

market is more rigid now than in the 1960s must be very limited. An alternative explanation is that the policy framework adopted by most countries early in the 1980s, and subsequently written into the Maastricht Treaty, has done more or less permanent damage to labour markets - and such excessive concern with inflation.

Whatever the explanation of unemployment, however, one cannot escape the fact that it creates the political circumstances which are favourable to protectionism. In recent years, most of Continental Europe has been heading towards monetary union, and in most countries this has been a popular objective. Political élites have succeeded in arguing that the pain of the Maastricht process must be endured in order for the prize to be won.

Well, the prize is about to be won, and it will certainly not result in a quick fall in unemployment. It remains to be seen what the popular reaction to this will be, but it is difficult to rule out a great deal of pressure for protectionism to safeguard jobs and create new ones.



PODIUM

JAMES FORDER
From the annual
Polititeia Lecture by the
economist at 2 Carlton
House Terrace,
Pall Mall, London

There anything uniquely European in the dangers. Nation states are subject to many of the same pressures, but I believe the European Union is poorly placed to deal with them, and consequently, more likely to be susceptible to them.

The history of European integration reveals that the member states continue to perceive an interest in protectionism. In the celebrations that attended the success of the

Fair

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Fairy lights and surgical strikes



JOHN WALSH
Who can see the livid tracer-fire and not think of it as our gift of Christmas illuminations to Saddam?

"SHE CHANGES her expression/ And puts on smy-ull Baby Expressions," trill the children as we thread our way through the crush in Hamleys. They are singing an advertising jingle of the telly. Baby Expressions is apparently a new doll of mercurial disposition whose face successively radiates fear, loathing, suspicion, hatred, depression and mirth while your children are playing with it. Despite its violent mood-swings (which, if it were a real kid, would make you suspect it of being on drugs), it's what Clementine, aged three, most wants for Christmas.

I try to explain to her that a doll is not supposed to have an emotional range; that it is a neutral template upon which to project certain role-playing emotions of one's own; that it is merely a plastic homunculus created to encourage an infant's child-rearing instincts. Clementine regards me steadily. She is obviously impressed by my confident grasp of toy psychology. Then she sticks out her quivering lower lip like an oink and her blue eyes fill with tears.

"But it's niiice," she cries, as stubborn as Saddam Hussein in Violet Elizabeth Bott ringlets. My otherwise charming daughter has suddenly turned into Baby Expressions (though without the smy-ull) and frankly, they deserve each other.

She also keen on Dentist Barbie, the latest incarnation of the slender plastic dreamboat who (a tiny disclaimer on the cardboard packaging advises you) "cannot stand up unaided". We have all, I think been out with girls like that. I'm just surprised at this new turn in her restless professional career. After being a doctor, a policewoman and an Olympic skier, she's now eschewed the more modern options of Spin Doctor Barbie (those boring Armani suits would never do) and PR Executive Barbie (too many hats, real and metaphorical) and plumped for dentistry, which gives her the chance to wear a gleaming white uniform and wield a little battery of probes and mouthwash glasses.

Dolls apart, Christmas shopping has been a learning curve of nomenclature. I have schlepped the streets like the Ancient Mariner asking strangers if they've heard of the Nerd Eagle-Eye, a gun of spectacular proportions upon which my son's festive equilibrium depends. Ignorant as a yule log when it comes to computer games, I've caught up with the Play Station empire at last and its excitable personnel - like Crash Bandicoot, a name Mervyn Peake would have been proud to invent. Until last week, the bandicoot was an inexcusively and herbivorous marsupial of the genus - *Scamander*; its names derives. I need hardly remind you, from the Telegu word



Dissolved Barbie, accompanied by two others of the Barbie range, might make a topical Christmas gift

pandikolu meaning "pig-rat". Well forget that. It now has a new global identity as a hyperactive cartoon rat who rides around on motor bikes looking for jewels and blasting anyone who gets in the way.

And there's that other word. Along Regent Street, the overhead illuminations inform the children that Christmas is the season to be "Tango'd". What does it mean, Dad? It means, my dears, that the point of the festive season is apparently for its celebrants to become intoxicated with fizzy orange drinks. Can this be true? Four years ago, when the Christmas lights featured characters from *Aladdin* to advertise the newly-released Disney movie, I rang the Association of Oxford Street Shop-owners to ask how they'd allowed it to happen.

"But *Aladdin* is terribly Christmassy," the lady Twinkie said.

"Madam," I replied coldly, "Aladdin is from *The Arabian Nights*, a book of Persian fairy tales translated into Arabic in AD 850. It's about a Christmassy as the Sphinx."

"Oh," she said, roguishly, "but you know, Widow Twinkie and all that."

The fact that Disney had handed over a colossal wedge of cash for letting the Genie gatecrash the crib, as it were, wasn't mentioned. And now we shake our heads about the Tango sponsorship as if it weren't the natural consequence of commercial spon-

sorship. In my view, we should simply congratulate whichever marketing genius was responsible for ensuring that nobody will ever utter the name "Tango" again without a grimace of distaste.

BUT AS one races around town, getting and spending, noting with amusement this gross innovation that amusing toy, everything seems to turn into a mirror of the events in the Middle East. You don't have to be a connection-hungry poet to find awful correspondences between trivial matters here and terrible events there. Who can look at the livid tracer-fire, the after-burners of missiles and the crimson striations in the night sky over Baghdad and not think of them as our present of Christmas illuminations to the back-sliding infidel?

Look at the face of five-year-old Susan Jasim in a Baghdad hospital with her head swathed in muslin and it's clear: 'tis the season to be bandaged. After the PM's assurances about the Iraqi leader's continued demonic intentions, Saddam Hussein becomes a moustachioed Crash Bandicoot, hunting down the sacred jewels of oil and land. Listen to the US Chief of Staff's lectures about the surgical precision of cruise missiles and an image lodges in your head of a juvenile war-monger at the Pentagon,

his thumbs working away at a Play Station console, sending 200 Tomahawks across a TV screen and marvelling at the realism of the destruction that ensues. Just trying to buy a Nerf Eagle-Eye gun fills your head with that endless mantra: "weapons of mass destruction". You can't, any more, tell the lady from the Oxford Street Association that the Arab world is nothing to do with Christmas when your dinner-party companions speculate whether bombing the Middle East during Ramadan would be the equivalent of their bombing us during the Queen's Speech. Even when they decided to cease the raids at the weekend, it felt as if we were just waiting for the next build-up, the next inspection-team report, the next presidential phone call. It will probably take about a year. We can do this all over again as a seasonal chore, like pulling the Christmas tree lights out of their box in the attic.

In his address to the nation on Friday, Saddam Hussein thanked the early-warning-system technologists who anticipated the first wave of US missiles, and called them "the grandchildren of Zarqa al-Yamama", a famous Iraqi seer who could see things at a great distance. So could Nostradamus, who prophesied that Armageddon would fall at the end of the second millennium. I've never known a more unsettling time to be sending greetings

cards invoking "peace on earth, goodwill to all men", when the TV is hiccupping with threats, and the rumble of B-52 bombers punctuates the *Nine O'Clock News*.

THE CHRISTMAS spirit does not, apparently, work overtime. Four days ago, I ordered the turkey and smoked ham from Hester's, the marvellous bespoke butcher's shop beside Vauxhall Gardens. The boss and I exchanged badinage. He reminisced about the biggest turkey that had ever passed through his hands - 69lbs, he said, and the only one large enough to take it was the ancestral furnace at Westminster's Children Hospital. I bought some sausage meat with chestnuts. He threw in some chipolatas. We couldn't have been friendlier. It was a Pickwickian scene to gladden the heart.

"Goodbye," he said at last, "and in case I don't see you again, merry Christmas".

"But we'll see each other next week," I replied, "when I come to pick the bird up."

The butcher looked at me sadly.

"By Tuesday it'll be chaos in 'ere: 15lb turkeys all over the place. We'll all be far too growly to be nice to customers."

So, in the same tradition of curmudgeonly realism - before things get too fraught and snappish in the land of deadlines, happy Christmas to all in Readerland.

RIGHT OF REPLY

HAROLD W RUBIN

A London gallery owner responds to Tom Lubbock's 'Critical Condition' article on the state of the visual arts in Tuesday's *Independent*

AS A London gallery owner, I should be qualified to answer Tom Lubbock's article on criticism. I have designed numerous galleries, I have been a curator and I am (once again) a dealer. I own many works of art. However, I am not rich, nor have many of the persons to whom I have sold art been rich, unless, in the words of Bernard Barruch, "being rich is having a dollar more than you can spend".

What Mr Lubbock has done is to compound the myth and misunderstanding about how and why art is exhibited and who is concerned with it. No; very rarely will a review help to sell much of the art it discusses. Taking his premise further, I know that it would be cheaper and less work if I dealt privately and avoided having a gallery open to the public. My desire for his review or that of others is for the artist's sake. Many artists whose work I have shown are more anxious for that word than for the sales which might help support them financially. Time after time I have tried to explain how hard I have tried to make contact and been ignored. At last there has been some explanation as to how the chosen ones are selected.

Admittedly, there are so many galleries and so many artists that getting a few words in print is doubtless as rare as winning the Lottery. The purpose of an exhibition is that an artist will see and evaluate his own work in having it arranged together in an environment other than his own workshop.

I know from experience how the work will change and develop after such a showing. One painter answered the question of who he painted for with: "Myself and 12 friends." Could a critic's role be that of helping find those friends as his contribution and responsibility?

Every so often one sees or hears of a oophyte visitor who wakes to an awareness he has never experienced before when looking at an exhibition. It is nice to encourage these souls.

In search of Christian values

AS ALAN Wilkinson reports in the penultimate chapter of *Christian Socialism*, surveys show that the Prime Minister's Christian commitment is one of the best known facts about him. This book is written to describe and evaluate the distinctively socialist strand of Christian social concern, which goes back in this country to the early days of the 19th century.

I encountered this tradition when it was at its most publicly influential, in the middle of the Second World War. As a boy of 17, I attended the much-reported 1942 meeting in the Albert Hall when Archbishop Temple and Sir Stafford Cripps launched an overtly Christian campaign for moral and social renewal after the war. In that same year, Temple, as Archbishop of Canterbury, published a Penguin Special on Christianity and the social order. It sold 139,000 copies and was re-published in 1976 with a foreword by Sir Edward Heath. Temple said that the widespread sales were because "everyone is planning the good world which we hope to see when the war is over".

At the end of the war, while still serving in the army in India, I also was looking forward to this "good world" when Attlee was elected Labour prime minister. I rejoiced in the opportunity to implement the Beveridge Report, and to carry

MONDAY BOOKS

CHRISTIAN SOCIALISM:
SCOTT HOLLAND TO TONY BLAIR
BY ALAN WILKINSON. SCM PRESS. £14.95
THE NEW POLITICS: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
EDITED BY PAUL VALLEY. SCM PRESS. £14.95

forward a vision of social organisation related to Christian and humanist understanding of community and mutually responsible citizenship.

Beveridge attended Balliol College, Oxford, at the beginning of this century with William Temple and the noted Christian socialist teacher and writer RH Tawney. Tawney made a notable (though critical, for he was no utopian) contribution to Christian socialist thought in a series of books such as *The Acquisitive Society*, *Equality*, and the classic *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*. The public and political influence of this Balliol trio was at its height in that post-war enthusiasm, which I shared, for Christian socialism and a welfare state. Since then, much has changed. As reported by Wilkinson, in the

1980s I found myself confronting Thatcherism for its idolatrous belief in the free market and its offensive refusal to face the task of providing effective transitional care for the victims of capitalism's "creative gales of destruction" (even if that destruction was necessary, and in the long run hopeful). Wilkinson locates all this in an interesting and detailed account of the many-stranded developments of Christian socialism in the UK. He is wisely critical, prudentially concerned with a proper assessment of some aspects of Victorian values and the values of the market, reasonably doubtful about some aspects of New Labour, and with a sharp eye for the romantic Utopian tendencies in much Christian social thought.

He also reports some quotable remarks, which my favourite is that of the Reverend Samuel Barnett, who founded Toynbee Hall in the East End in 1884. He argued that the state should help make society more equal by redistributive taxation. Barnett was wont to remark: "God loveth a cheerful tax-payer." Clearly a text to be commended to Messrs Blair and Brown.

In *The New Politics*, Paul Valley has edited a competent account of the social teachings of the Popes, from Leo XIII in 1881 to John Paul II's seven documents between 1979 and 1995. The editor contributes a stimulating survey by way of introduction, a strong concluding chapter on "John Paul II and The New Millennium", and an epilogue "Towards a New Politics - Catholic social teaching in a pluralist air".

The latter ought to be required reading for all men and women who see their faith as inescapably involved in social and political action. This essay - and indeed the entire book - provides powerful philosophical and moral points of significance to all humanists who search for uni-



Church-goer Tony Blair

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MONDAY POEM

CALAIS
BY GLYN MAXWELL

They tin-opened his head.
Apparently it said
CALAIS across his brain
in red. Which should explain
the puzzlement and pain
and focus that he felt,
that afternoon he smelt
its fuel-and-fishy air,
then mulled it over in a square

like one whom little girls
untassel their hair
in French and comb it to curl
adore when he's thirteen.

who wonders what on earth they mean
and guesses and is wrong,
goes pink and carries on,
finds the ferry gone.

Our poems until 8 January come from the 10 volumes shortlisted for this year's TS Eliot Prize, to be announced on 11 January. Glyn Maxwell's *The Breakage* is published by Faber (£7.99)

versally shareable, and realistically hopeful, values. In between are chapters moving chronologically through the papal writings from six experienced writers, including the director of CAFOD on "Looking out on the World's Poor"; the director of the Catholic Institute for International Relations on "People before Profit" and Clifford Longley on "Structures of sin and the free market". Taken together, they build into a remarkably sustained argument for an authoritarian approach to social problems.

Alas, they do not settle the issue of how any

religious body or person can claim to be right on vital issues when all churches and their representatives have obviously been wrong in the past on aspects of thinking, morals and actions.

But both books highlight the fact that we Christians have something vital both to say, and to live up to. They challenge Christians to contribute more effectively to keeping our 21st-century world open to a sustainable, shareable and hopeful future.

DAVID JENKINS

The reviewer was Bishop of Durham, 1984-1994



Thomas in his uniform as Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, House of Lords (1992-95)

Admiral Sir Richard Thomas

RICHARD THOMAS joined the Royal Navy in 1951, when its distillation and digestion of the lessons of the Second World War were being interrupted by Korea. He left it 40 years later as the Cold War was ending.

The Cold Wars were the nearest he got to actual hostility, but he had a full, interesting and rewarding career, within the service for most of the time, but latterly as its representative – and that of the UK – in two key Nato posts. When he retired, he had the good fortune that another career, shorter but no less rewarding, was waiting for him at the Palace of Westminster.

The son of a naval officer, Thomas joined the Navy from Downside. He lived the rest of his life very much in accordance with the tenets of his teaching. He was one of the happiest husbands and fathers; his entry in *Who's Who* testifies that his only recreation was his family. He was soon at sea in the old *Illustrious*, of Taranto fame but by 1951 the Home Fleet training carrier, and then in another veteran of wartime building, the cruiser *Gambia*.

Five years into his career, he started his professional acquaintance with the world outside the Navy as Flag Lieutenant to the Commander-in-Chief of the old East Indies station. Then came a succession of small ship appointments – navigator of a frigate (*Eastbourne*), watchkeeper in a destroyer (*Crossbow*), command of a landing ship (*Suffolk*), and still a Lieutenant, a coastal minesweeper (*Wolverton*).

Then in 1962 came the benchmark of an appointment to HMY *Britannia*. An early tendency to acerbity and impatience had disappeared with years and experience, and an especially distinguished execution of his duties as second in command of the frigate *Torbay* led to swift promotion to Commander and to the command of the destroyer *Troubridge* (1966-68).

This had been a good start to a career with an abundance of sea time, but Thomas's next three appointments, i.e. the remaining six years in the normal zone for promotion to Captain, were all to be spent largely ashore. The deployment and training of seaman ratings kept him

busy – there were 13,000 of them in those days, and he made some improvements to the system.

Then came a stint on the staff of the Flag Officer Flotilla 1 (one of the three divisions of the Fleet), followed by a move to Rosyth as Staff Officer Operations to FOSNI, the Flag Officer, Scotland and Northern Ireland. That job was dominated by the second and Cod War of 1972, a large-scale and serious fishing dispute in Northern waters, ironically between two Nato allies and involving alas several collisions as nets were cut or ships manoeuvred to avoid such an offence.

Thomas was much involved, and revealed a steadiness under pressure and an attention to current details

Flag Officer Second Flotilla (1985-87), which he thoroughly enjoyed, especially in seeing whether his staff could be reduced to a number which could realistically accompany him to sea; this was a reflection of his second appointment as a Commander.

He could have retired then after a good career. There had been the long apprenticeship at sea, then, promotion assured, a series of testing and rewarding appointments, concentrated on the personnel side, which led to the flag list and a good command afloat.

For the Navy of those days, which was beginning to dwindle in ships and in people, that was good going. Their Lordships were still teased by Parkinson's Law, but at the same time

loyal to the British government without being disloyal to the Alliance to whose staff they had appointed him. Here again the times were against him; resources were scarce and diminishing, and the end of the Cold War brought a false optimism with which his military mind had to contend. Experience has already vindicated his appreciations and efforts.

Thomas was created KCB in 1987. In 1991 he left the Navy and was appointed Gentleman Usher to the Black Rod in 1992, a post which carried with it the appointment of Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Lords and Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain. All these offices he delighted in, though relieved that the second was more ceremonial than disciplinary. The duties have extended since the 16th century, and now a staff of 80 deals with all administrative work in the House of Lords.

Richard Thomas was well suited to lead such a team, and in his tenure proceedings were modified and modernised. He had a stroke in 1993, which left him with something of a limp, but his mind and sense of humour were unimpaired, and when he returned to work his devotion to duty was an example of self-discipline much admired. It was the after effects which hastened his death this month, and shortened his first real retirement. He was appointed KCVO when he left Westminster in 1993, and the Catholic Church recognised his life's work with a papal knighthood in the Order of Pope Pius IX.

A. B. SAINSBURY

William Richard Scott Thomas, naval officer: born 22 March 1932; OBE 1974; Directorate of Naval Plans, MoD 1974-77; CO HMS *Fearless* 1977-78; Director, Office Appointments (Seamen) 1980-83; Naval Secretary 1983-85; Flag Officer Second Flotilla 1985-87; KCB 1987; Deputy Sacrist 1987-89; UK Military Representative to Nato 1989-92; Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod and Sergeant-at-Arms, House of Lords, and Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain 1992-95; KCVO 1995; married 1959 Paddy Cullinan (two sons, four daughters, and two sons deceased); died 13 December 1998.

At Nato, Thomas had the singularly difficult task of being loyal to the British government without being disloyal to the Alliance to whose staff they had appointed him

which did not distract him from remembering to think of future probabilities; because of this, he was appointed OBE. Most important, he was promoted – there were too many deserving candidates to allow for many over-zone promotions in those days – and it was as a Captain that he went to the Ministry of Defence, of which he had happily seen little so far, to assist in the Polaris development.

Captain Thomas went to sea with the Commando assault ship *Fearless* before attending the RCDS course of 1979; he had passed the RN staff course in 1963 and the Joint Services counterpart three years later. It was then that he was wisely directed back to the personnel side of the Navy, first as Director of Seaman Officers' Appointments (1980-82) and then, as a Rear Admiral and the Naval Secretary, responsible for the selection, employment and promotion of officers of all specialisations.

His last command at sea was as

were tasked with a steady number of posts of representation and inter-allied commitments for which good men had to be found. It is a tribute to the Admiralty Board's perspicacity that there were few occasions when it was whispered that perhaps there weren't enough good men to go round; it was a tribute to Thomas that although it was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time, he was with no doubt the right man.

Promoted Vice Admiral, he was Deputy Sacrist (Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic) at Norfolk, Virginia (1987-89) and then, an Admiral, the UK Military Representative to Nato in Brussels. As the Supreme Commander was also C in the US Atlantic Fleet, he delegated much of the Nato work to Thomas who was hard pressed, especially as military resources were becoming scarcer while tensions did not diminish.

At Nato itself, Thomas had the singularly difficult task of being

Antonio Ordóñez

A COUPLE of distinguished, if light-hearted, Spanish philosophers recently conducted a conference entitled "The Bullfighting Art of Antonio Ordóñez" at Madrid's illustrious Fine Arts Circle. The matador himself attended on the last day, and when the participants had concluded their analysis of his artistic merit, he asked to say a few words. He began: "After listening to these friends, who know nothing of bullfighting..."

The exchange – taken in good part on all sides – revealed both the sharp humour of this hero of what Spain's traditional newspapers still call the "fiesta nacional", and the deep cultural importance that bullfighting still enjoys in Spain. Ordóñez was one of its last remaining legends.

He won fame in international literary circles in the 1950s through his friendship with Orson Welles and Ernest Hemingway. But in Spain in the 1950s and 1960s he became a myth, adored by the public and revered by fellow bullfighters for his bravery and the beauty of his art.

He was born in the southern Spanish town of Ronda – bullfighting's ancestral home – in 1932, the son of Cayetano Ordóñez, himself a well-known bullfighter. Antonio's four brothers, Cayetano, Juan, Pepe and Alfonso all became bullfighters. Young Antonio faced his first calf in 1945 and made his debut in the suit of lights in a corrida in Logroño, La

Rioja in 1948, aged 16. He fought 76 bulls in his first season. A year later he suffered his first serious goring in Barcelona.

In June 1951 he qualified as a matador and the following year, in a sensational season, he triumphed in Spain's principal bullfighting festivals, the Feria of Seville, and the

writer who joined the two men's road show describes their progress from bullring to bullring across Spain throughout the 1959 season. The grueling schedule prompted Ordóñez's famous remark: "no one can become a bullfighter unless he can master the art of sleeping in the car". Compared with Dominguín's

father's American friend "Papa Ernesto".

Later he became friendly with Orson Welles, who became so infatuated with the bullfighting world that the film director ordered his remains to be buried in Ordóñez's "finca" in Ronda. "One day I'll explain how that came about," the bullfighter once promised, but he never did explain.

Ordóñez always regretted that a bullfighter had no control over the beasts he fought, especially in important bullfights like Madrid. He recalled a lunch in Bordeaux in 1952 with the pianist Arthur Rubinstein who found it inexplicable that a torero could not choose his bulls as a pianist chose his piano. Ordóñez said: "It's as if someone told Paco de Lucia just before a concert: 'sorry, not your guitar, this one'."

He had one brush with death away from the bullring. In 1966, while driving a car near Cadiz he crashed and his passenger was killed. Ordóñez was tried for homicide through carelessness driving, but was acquitted.

Ordóñez cut off his pony-tail – as the saying goes – on 12 August 1971, although he had announced his retirement 10 years earlier. He devoted himself to breeding bulls on the ranch he had acquired in 1962, and became the owner and manager of the bullring in Ronda. There he organised the annual "corridas Gayescas" –

Hemingway was devastated to discover that Ordóñez and Dominguín had hyped up the bitterness of their rivalry for the benefit of the American public

San Isidro festival in Madrid. He fought more than 2,000 bulls during 30 years.

In 1953 he married Carmen González Lucas, better known as Carmela Dominguín, daughter of the torero Domingo Dominguín and sister of three matadors, including the most famous of the dynasty, Luis Miguel Dominguín, who was for years Ordóñez's fiercest rival.

This battle between the two matadores in the late Fifties inspired Hemingway's report for *Life* magazine that he worked up into the book *The Dangerous Summer*. The

cold and ruthless technique, Ordóñez, though unaffected and elegant in style, burned with emotion and commitment. Hemingway was struck by Ordóñez's determined passion to win. The writer was devastated to learn later that Ordóñez and his brother-in-law had hyped up the bitterness of their rivalry for the benefit of the American public.

Hemingway came to know Ordóñez's father, known as El Niño de la Palma, when he fought at the bullrunning festival in Pamplona in the 1920s. Young Antonio called his fa-

ther's American friend "Papa Ernesto". Later he became friendly with Orson Welles, who became so infatuated with the bullfighting world that the film director ordered his remains to be buried in Ordóñez's "finca" in Ronda. "One day I'll explain how that came about," the bullfighter once promised, but he never did explain.

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bullfights in the style and with the customs immortalised by the 18th-century master Francisco de Goya.

His two daughters, Carmen Cayetana and Ana Belén, each married bullfighters. Last October Carmen's son Francisco Rivera, also a bullfighter, married María Eugenia Martínez de Irujo, daughter of the Duchess of Alba, one of Spain's grandest grandees, in a wedding broadcast live on Spanish television. The proud grandfather was too ill with cancer to attend.

ELIZABETH NASH

Antonio Ordóñez Araújo, matador: born Ronda, Spain 16 February 1932; married 1953 Carmen González Lucas (deceased; two daughters); 1983 Pilar Lezcano; died Seville 19 December 1998.

this week his ashes will be scattered in the arena of Ronda bullring.

MELVYN TAN

Susan Bicknell

despite government axing of its funding.

An eminent viola player, Bicknell was accepted originally as a violin student at the Royal College of Music at the early age of 16. She later studied in Brussels. It was Orre Pernell, the great Bach specialist, who persuaded Bicknell to switch to the viola and who became perhaps her greatest musical inspiration.

The great affinity Bicknell felt for Bach's music is embodied in the fine recording she made of the Cello Suites in 1996.

Here she was satisfied that she had made a true musical contribution and that she had also united certain of her own religious and practical ideas in her playing. She

made sure that proceeds from the sale of this CD went to the Edmund Emery Fund for cancer research, a cause which was particularly important to her.

Sue Bicknell was a deeply spiritual person. Her own Christianity sustained her throughout her life as did her knowledge of Eastern religions, particularly Zen and Tibetan Buddhism. She also gained understanding of mathematical philosophy, Newton's laws and Einstein's theories, and delighted in making connections with her own artistic and spiritual understanding.

Her range of knowledge and her appetite for it was wide. She read extensively not only in English but also in French, Italian and ancient Greek,

which she had studied in order to make her own New Testament translations.

JEFFREY TOBIAS

Susan Bicknell's talents as a teacher and performer were matched by a remarkable generosity of spirit, writes Jeffrey Tobias. It was typical of her that even during her final month of life she arranged for her string quartet, the Amati, to play at the Middlesex Hospital to help raise funds for cancer research.

This late in the day, she could barely feel the fingers of her left hand yet she somehow retained sufficient dexterity to sustain her wonderful technique. She never

complained throughout a lengthy illness lasting a decade, and in the latter years her professional ambition if anything seemed to accelerate: chamber works, baroque concerts and two unforgettable performances, as soloist of Berio's *Harold in Italy*.

Eighteen months before she died, when faced with the inevitable, she achieved her lifelong wish to transcribe and record three of the Bach unaccompanied cello suites on the viola, leaving us a novel and permanent insight into her unique vision.

Susan Margaret Bicknell, viola player: born Farnborough, Surrey, 5 August 1948; died London 22 November 1998.



Affinity for Bach's music

SUSAN BICKNELL was a great champion of the viola. She performed the entire repertoire for the instrument, taught viola with great dedication at the Royal Junior College of Music and the Welsh College of Music and Drama and had started to record the works of Brahms and Schumann. Her need to get as close as possible to the heart of music also led her to embrace the period instrument movement and she performed frequently with London Baroque and the English Concert.

She was, with me, a founder member of the New Mozart Ensemble and of the Festival de St Agnès in France, and was a loyal and inspiring colleague in cham-

ber music, contributing many ideas and insights to help enrich our performances.

Following her Wigmore Hall debut in 1981 Bicknell gave concerts all over the world as a soloist, as guest with the Chilingirian and Allegri String Quartets, as member of the Amati Quartet and with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, the English Chamber Orchestra and the London Philharmonic.

She was based in Florence for a number of years and on her return became principal viola of the London Mozart Players. She also delighted in opera and was a great champion of the now defunct Kent Opera which she was determined should continue to exist

and to do so in a musical way.

She had made a true musical contribution and that she had also united certain of her own religious and practical ideas in her playing. She

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Higginbotham (left) applauds as Nelson Mandela holds up his honorary Doctor of Law degree at Harvard University, September 1998 AP

A. Leon Higginbotham

A. LEON HIGGINBOTHAM was one of the most distinguished American jurists of his generation. His life as a lawyer was devoted to advancing the cause of civil rights and racial integration. He personified that cohort of African Americans who came of age in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s when the Supreme Court decision in the case of *Brown v Board of Education* was revolutionising race relations.

Indeed, he was an outstanding example of the whole purpose of integration, which was to ensure that a black man or woman with the right stuff could enjoy the kind of talented white Americans took for granted. Born in modest circumstances in Trenton, New Jersey in 1928, he went to segregated schools and won a place in a predominantly white college at Purdue, Indiana, in 1944.

Here he experienced the kind of crude anti-black discrimination routine to all parts of the United States at that time. Nevertheless, he graduated BA from Antioch in 1949 and took a law degree at Yale Law School, where he won academic awards, in 1952. Few black students at that time graduated from such prestigious institutions.

Seeking work as a lawyer in Philadelphia, he ran into serious discrimination for the first time. When one of the city's top law firms asked him to attend an interview, it was clear they had assumed that a Yale graduate named Higginbotham would be white. The lawyer who interviewed him agreed his credentials were impressive, but then added, "Of course, there's nothing I can do for you."

The "of course" was what hurt and what characterised race relations in the

United States on the eve of the Supreme Court's landmark decision in the *Brown* case, which was published in May 1954.

This decision, in which the Court voted 9-0, declared segregated schools unconstitutional, undermining segregation in every section and region of America, not just in education in the South, but in housing, employment, policies and the law right across the nation.

It took another 20 years for segregation to end, years of legal and political struggle historians call the civil rights movement, and in this struggle lawyers like Higginbotham played a crucial part. In 1954 he joined the Philadelphia law firm of Norris, Green, Harris & Higginbotham, became the city's assistant district attorney and then president of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which had led the struggle to undermine the legal basis of segregation in America since the 1920s.

In 1964, President John Kennedy appointed him as the first black lawyer to serve on the Federal Communications Commission. He was 36. Three years later, Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson, considered putting him on the United States Supreme Court in 1967 before naming Thurgood Marshall as the first African American to serve on the highest court in the nation.

Higginbotham remained an unambiguous champion of integration, which had to be enforced by law, but when Richard Nixon was president, between 1969 and 1975, such ideas fell out of favour. As a lawyer, teacher and legal scholar Higginbotham's influence continued to increase so that in 1977 Pres-

ident Jimmy Carter appointed him to the federal district court of appeals in Philadelphia, where he could rule on the constitutionality of civil cases.

This date was significant. In 1977-8 the US Supreme Court heard and decided the landmark case of *Regents of the University of California v Bakta*. In a divided and complicated decision the court ruled 5-4 that, contrary to the Brown decision 24 years earlier, educational discrimination in favour of blacks was still discrimination, and that preference systems or admission quotas to achieve racial balance on university courses were unconstitutional.

This saw the start of a generation in which positive discrimination, or affirmative action as it was known, came increasingly under attack, not least from black lawyers with conservative views, like Clarence Thomas, appointed by President Bush to the US Supreme Court to succeed Thurgood Marshall in 1991.

Two years earlier, Higginbotham had become chief judge on the Philadelphia appeals court and now enjoyed a wide reputation as scholar and lawyer. When Thomas's appointment was confirmed, after hearings in which it was alleged he had sexually harassed another black lawyer named Anita Hill, Higginbotham wrote a celebrated open letter to Thomas asking him to consider the historical roots from which American racism had grown, and emphasising the importance of law in defeating racial discrimination.

Justice Thomas was deaf to such arguments, as were increasing numbers of Americans. The era of universal acceptance of affirmative action was over. "I witnessed the birth of racial justice

in the Supreme Court," Higginbotham explained in the *New York Times* magazine in January this year. "Now, after 45 years as a lawyer, judge and law professor, I sometimes feel as if I am watching justice die." This view was widely shared by other liberal Americans, whatever the colour of their skin.

In his last years, Higginbotham's fame as a legal scholar and tireless advocate of civil rights increased. Thus in 1995 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honour, while only two weeks before he died he was one of a handful of legal scholars asked to testify before the House Judiciary Committee about the proposed impeachment of President Clinton.

His advice, as in everything he said and wrote, was concise and clear. Even if Clinton had committed the perjury of which the Starr report indicted him, not all perjury was equal under the law. Lies about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky were more like lies to avoid a speeding ticket than lies about treason or bribery, which were impeachable offences. Perjury about something which was not even a misdemeanour could not justify removing a president from office. In the next few months we shall see whether Congress is as deaf to Leon Higginbotham's advice as Justice Thomas was to the advice he received in 1991.

PATRICK RENSHAW

Aloysius Leon Higginbotham, lawyer, born Trenton, New Jersey 25 February 1928; twice married (two sons, two daughters); died Boston, Massachusetts 14 December 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

NORBERT MILLER: Hannah, born in Vienna on 25 February 1916, died peacefully in London after a short illness on 17 December. Daughter of Otto and Erna Niedermann, she was the wife of the late Martin Miller and wonderful mother of Daniel. She will be greatly missed by those who knew, loved and were inspired by her. Donations to Help the Aged. For further information call 0161 362 8008.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BIRTHS,
MARRIAGES & DEATHS**
(Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Alexander Bennett, former chairman, Whitbread and Co. 85; Air Commandant Dame Jean Bremet, former Director of the WRAF, 86; Mr Basil Collins, former chairman, Nabisco, 75; Mrs Chris Evert-Lloyd, tennis champion, 44; Miss Jane Fonda, actress, 61; Sir James Hill, former MP, 72; Mr Peter Johnson, headmaster, Wrekin College, 51; Sir Frederick Lawton, former Appeal Court judge, 87; Mr Albert Lee, rock guitarist, 55; Mr Geoff Lewis, horse-racing trainer, 63; Mr Wyndham Milligan, former principal, Wolsey Hall, Oxford, 91; Mr Steve Perryman, footballer, 47; Mr Anthony Powell CH, novelist, 93; Mr John Quayle, actor, 60; Sir John Quinton, former chairman, Barclays Bank, 69; Flight Lieutenant William Reid VC, 77; Brigadier Vera Roeke, former director, Army Nursing Services, 74; Mr Walter Spanghero, rugby player, 55; Mr Greville Starkey, former jockey, 59; Mr Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, 54; Mr Peter Timiswood, playwright, 62; Sir Cyril Townsend, former MP, 61; Mr Doug Walters, cricketer, 53; Dr Alan Wynne Williams

MP, 58; Professor Robert Worcester, chairman, Market & Opinion Research International, 65.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1118; Massacio (Tommaso di Giovanni), Florentine painter, 1401; Mathurin Regnier, French satirical poet, 1573; Jean Racine, French playwright, 1639; Benoit-Tranquille Berbiguier, French flautist and composer, 1782; Dr Robert Moffat, Scottish missionary and traveller, 1795; Leopold von Ranke, German historian, 1795; Sir Joseph Whitworth Bt, mechanical engineer, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, First Earl of Beaconsfield, statesman, 1804; Thomas Couture, French painter, 1815; Prince Peter Alekseyevich Kropotkin, Russian anarchist revolutionary and geographer, 1842; Nathaniel (Nat) Gould, racing novelist, 1857; Josef Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili (Joseph Stalin), Soviet leader, 1879; Walter Charles Hagen, golf champion, 1892; Leroy Robertson, composer, 1896; Harry Revel, popular composer and pianist, 1905; Heinrich Böll, German author, 1917; Frank Hampson, creator of "Dan Dare", 1918.

Deaths: Giovanni Boccaccio, Italian author, 1375; Vicente Joanes, Spanish painter, 1579; Catherine of Braganza, consort of King Charles II, 1705; Bernard de Montfaucon, French critic and classical scholar, 1741; James Parkinson, surgeon and paleontologist, 1824; Niels Wilhelm Gade, Danish composer, 1890; Walter Hines Page, ambassador and editor, 1918; Frank Billings Kellogg, politician, 1937; Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald, novelist, 1940; General George Smith Patton, military leader, 1945; Lewis Thomas, psychologist, 1956; Lion Feuchtwanger, German novelist and playwright, 1958; Sir Jacky John Berry Hobbs, cricketer, 1963.

On this day: Richard Coeur de Lion was captured by the Duke of Austria, 1192; the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock in North America, 1620; in North America the *Boston Gazette* was first issued, 1719; paper money called assignats were issued in France, 1789; the first co-operative store was opened in Rochdale, 1844; anaesthetics were used for the first time in Britain (by Robert Liston), 1846.

Charley's Aunt, the farce by Brandon Thomas, was first performed, 1892; the Port of London Authority was inaugurated, 1908; after a colliery disaster at Pretoria Pit, Bolton, 344 lives were lost, 1910; the first newspaper to publish a crossword puzzle was the *New York World*. This was compiled by Liverpool-born Arthur Wynne, 1913; the premiere of the first full-length full-colour animated cartoon (*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*) by Walt Disney, took place, 1935; General Charles de Gaulle was elected president of the French Fifth Republic, 1958; the first flight of Man around the moon took place when Apollo 8 was launched, 1969.

Today is the Feast Day of St Anastasius II of Antioch, St Glycerius, St John Vincent, St Peter Canisius and Saints Themistocles & Dioscorus.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Valerie Holman, "Victorian Painting", 2pm. **Children's Christmas Lecture:** at the Royal Society of Arts, London WC2: Dr Richard Wiseman, "Do You Believe in Magic?", 2.30pm.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S repeated assertion about an air-strike "to degrade" Saddam Hussein might sound curious in some ears. After all, the despot could hardly be any more base. In fact, the verb has been so consumed by its meaning of to debase that this has sidelined its first, medieval sense of taking

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
degrade, v.

down a degree or even of ousting. Massinger later wrote of the way in which "thou dost degrade thyself of all the honours Thy

ancestors left thee." In each case, the OED last cites Jowett and Cardinal Newman, which is lofty company for any President.

Incidentally, whenever Clinton attends a fundraiser at the Sheraton New York, he uses the side-entrance: surely a perilous photo-opportunity: it is hard by the 53rd Street Cigar Bar.

HISTORICAL NOTES

PHYLIS WILLMOTT

Black stockings filled with goodies

MY MOTHER was born in 1892 in the front downstairs bedroom of an ancient thatched cottage in which many generations of agricultural families must have been born, lived out their lives and died. The cottage (which is no longer there) was in the centre of the Bedfordshire village of Blunham. Opposite stood - and still stands - the ancient church, surrounded by green grass and old tombstones. Along one side of its enclosure wall was the lane which led, under an avenue of lime trees, to the banks of the Ivel.

It was a setting that could not have changed much since Bunyan had applied on behalf of a villager he knew for a licence to preach there in the 17th century. The villager was named John Wright and Bunyan had earlier spent time with him in Bedford jail. It was a heavy diet in which little food came from outside the village, although as the century drew to a close some new foods - such as tinned salmon, treacle and Quaker Oats - appeared. Bananas were a rare treat brought by the brothers from London; lemons were "never seen in the house", and oranges were a once-a-year Christmas luxury.

One Christmas held a particularly vivid memory for my mother. From an early age she had suffered from bad earache, and on Christ-

mas Eve she was crying bitterly with the pain. It was late and her mother brought her downstairs, for her sisters Bertha and Florie were trying to sleep in the children's bedroom upstairs. Everything was quiet until there was the noise of a cart rumbling by in the dark outside. "Listen!" said my grandmother to her sobbing daughter. "I do believe that could be Father Christmas!" Magically, this must have charmed away the pain, for the next my mother knew was waking in the morning to find her black stocking hanging at the end of the bed, filled with the orange, nuts, sweets and small presents smuggled into the cottage by the older children in preceding weeks.

Sadly, not everyone in those days could hope for black stockings filled with goodies. Poverty was as common as the lot of agricultural labourers in Bedfordshire as in most other rural areas. My mother remembered that when the new potatoes came in from her father's allotment her mother would cook a large potful to put out on her doorstep for the less fortunate village children. In the winter she would fill her baking tins with jacket potatoes. From other accounts, it seems that this sort of help was not at all uncommon.

Phyllis Willmott is the author of *'From Rural East Anglia to Suburban London'* (Institute of Community Studies, £9.50)

CASE SUMMARIES

21 DECEMBER 1998

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law Reports.

Release dates

R v Governor of Wandsworth Prison, ex p Soriano; QBD (Div Ct) (Simon Brown LJ, Astill J) 14 Dec 1998.

TIME SPENT in custody on remand for offence A, whilst also detained pursuant to a magistrates' court sentence for offence A, was not to be counted towards the serving of the sentence of imprisonment for offence B when the sentence for offence A was quashed on appeal before the defendant had been sentenced to imprisonment for offence B. A sentence once quashed was not void *ab initio*; during the period of sentence A, therefore, the applicant was not in prison "only" by reason of an order of a court made in connection with any proceedings related to sentence B, as would be required by s 67(1A) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 were that period of time to count towards sentence B.

Peter Duffy QC, Ramber de Mella (Goodall Barnett James, Brighton) for the applicant; Eleanor Grey (Treasury Solicitor) for the respondent.

Evidence

McCauley v Hope (Carryl, third party); CA (Butler-Sloss, Potter LJ, Sir Patrick Russell) 8 Dec 1998.

WHERE A plaintiff injured in a road traffic accident sought in proceedings against the defendant, to rely on the defendant's conviction of driving without due care and attention, the plaintiff was not entitled to judgment under RSC Ord 14. The defendant, although admitting the conviction, alleged in reliance on an expert's report that it was erroneous. Section 11(2) of the Civil Evidence Act 1968 provided the clearest possible mandate to a defendant in a road traffic accident case to attack his earlier conviction, provided he had some good cause for doing so, and could discharge the burden of proof to the civil standard. The Ord 14 process was inappropriate in such a case since there were serious issues to be tried.

Elizabeth Gumbel (David Sniders, Ashford) for the plaintiff; Ian McLaren QC, Douglas Herbert (E. Edwards Son & Sons, Iford) for the defendant.

Sentencing

R v Baker; CA (Civ Div) (Pill LJ, Turner J, Judge Rant QC) 15 Dec 1998.

When imposing a sentence longer than one commensurate with the seriousness of the offence in question in order to protect the public from serious harm from an offender, pursuant to s 2(2)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, the power of the court to order sentences to run consecutively was not limited. The expression "maximum permitted sentence" applied to the sentence for an individual offence, and provided that did not exceed the permitted maximum, there was no obstacle to aggregating other sentences which did not exceed that maximum. Moreover, there was no obstacle to exercising the power under s 2(2)(b) in an individual sentence imposed consecutively to another sentence on which that power had been exercised.

Michael Thoka (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Brian Alman (Treasury Solicitor) as amicus curiae.

Discovery

Dubai Aluminium Co Ltd v Al Aliwi & sons; QBD, Commercial Court (Rix J) 3 Dec 1998.

Criminal or fraudulent conduct undertaken for the purposes of litigation fell on the same side of the line as advising on or setting up criminal or

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

degrade, v.

down a degree or even of ousting. Massinger later wrote of the way in which "thou dost degrade thyself of all the honours Thy

The king of St Helens

The Johnny Vegas Television Show is about to arrive in your living room. It's the most instantly legendary comedy moment since *Father Ted*. By Ben Thompson

If you've never seen Johnny Vegas live, you will need to be convinced that a 28-year-old failed potter can mould an audience in his hands with the suppleness and aplomb of a master craftsman. By sheer force of personality, this emotional volcano from St Helens - his fleshly slopes tattooed with rivulets of beer, sweat and clay - persuades women to let him kiss them and men to give him their designer shirts to clothe his nakedness. He reflects people's anxiety back at them through the distorting mirror of his own desperation, and they watch spellbound as he overcomes the class divide with an uplifting chorus of the "Hokey Cokey".

Even those who have seen Johnny Vegas bode a crowd to him will might still be wondering how he can successfully transfer to TV, where the key element of the Vegas live experience - the fact that the audience are shut in a room with him and can't escape because they've paid - is no longer a factor. Furthermore, in small screen terms, several aspects of the Vegas persona look unnervingly familiar.

The travails of bottom flight show-business have already been explored by such able prospectors as Tommy Cookies, John Shuttleworth and Alan Partridge. The thin line between acting drunk and actually being drunk hardly new ground either. But the rich ore Vegas extracts is all the more valuable for coming from such a well-mined seam. And the one-off debut of *The Johnny Vegas Television Show* (with a series to follow some time next year) is the most instantly legendary

TV comedy moment since the first episode of *Father Ted*. Think Les Dawson at his best, think John Kennedy Toole's literary masterpiece *Confederacy of Dunces* translated to a small northern boating lake, think a blow-up model of *Jonathan Creek*'s Alan Davies being inflated by an automatic balloon pump. *The Johnny Vegas Television Show* suggests all these things.

Resplendently out of place in a bustling west London champagne bar, Johnny Vegas's representative on earth - 28-year-old failed potter Michael Pennington - reflects on all the different ways it could have gone wrong. More sober in dress and demeanour than his flamboyantly flared and car-coated creation, Pennington shares Vegas's gift for rhetoric, and his Lancashire accent is as rich as a well-made Eccles cake.

"The question was, how did we get Johnny on TV without making him a TV person?" Pennington says. "We didn't want to make a mock documentary. This is how he lives. We didn't want to do a stand-up show, because Johnny Vegas is not a presenter: he's a very sad bloke who lives on his own who's an alcoholic. Every now and then he ventures into the world and he's very, very bitter."

The reason *The Johnny Vegas Television Show* succeeds where so many other attempts to translate Edinburgh Festival hits to TV have failed, is that it manages to establish its own integrity rather than shoehorning a well-honed act into an inappropriate new format.

"This is the dark years," Pennington explains, "the bit that never gets explained."

The cameras follow Vegas around his hometown of St Helens with occasional flashbacks to his glory days at Butlin's in Skegness.

"I never wanted personally to laugh at St Helens," Pennington insists, "because I live there, but this is the only place on earth where Johnny can exist: when we were filming, nobody said: 'What are you doing stood there looking like that?' All we'd get was: 'I haven't got time,' or: 'Sorry son, I think you're drunk.'"

We see Johnny hassling a hapless entertainment secretary at his local labour club. Johnny hassling an ice cream man. Johnny chased by a kite.

"There's something of a care-in-the-community element to it," Pennington explains. "You look at Johnny and think: 'Why is somebody not looking after him during the day?'" The feeling we wanted to get was: 'You shouldn't be laughing at this, but... Some people think it's too dark, but it couldn't be too dark.'

Almost as compelling as Vegas's whirlpool of misplaced moral energy ("I deserve to be loved") is the unforced naturalism of the people he comes up against. The secret of *The Johnny Vegas Show*'s impressively realistic collection of ice cream men and park keepers is that they are ice cream men and park keepers.

"People have said: 'What's he been in before? I know I've seen him in something.' And we're like: 'You haven't, he's an ice cream man from St Helens.'"

If Pennington's primary motivation was not so obviously compassion, there might be a hint of Jeremy Beadle in all this. As it is, *The Johnny Vegas Television Show* offers

us not just a welcome riposte to the endless search for "characters" in documentary series whose intermingling of show-business and reality is demeaning to both, but also a revolution in TV's approach to the ordinary. "There's somebody like Johnny in everybody's community," Pennington insists. "This person talking to you who you think is a nutter quite possibly was Butlin's boy number onee at some point - all he wanted to do was make people happy and he's been denied that."

Would it be fair to suggest there might be a political element to all of this? "I'd like to think it's a commentary, without being a lecture."

Perhaps this is why, where other comedians talk in terms of being true to comic traditions - Peter Sellers or Mooty Pythoo or whoever - Pennington talks about his work in terms of being true to the spirit of people in pubs. He stopped watching other people's comedy when he started to do his own.

"I'm always wary of aspiring to be

like someone else. It's like you're in a shop and you can't afford the stuff, so you look at a teapot and think: 'I'll go home and make my own,' and you do it and it looks nothing like the one you wanted, so why waste your time? Why not put your energy into making a teapot of your own?"

That teapot is on display now, and it's a lovely piece of work.

The Johnny Vegas Television Show is on Channel 4 this Sunday, 27 December, at 10.30pm

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today In 1937 the first full-length colour cartoon was premiered: Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, which six decades later is still turning up at a multiplex near you. (Unlike *Peludopolis*, the first black-and-white cartoon talkie, a political satire on a forgotten president of Argentina.)

Tomorrow The first revolving stage began whizzing around in 1758; wisely, it was extremely small-scale, at Kaidza Doll Theatre, Osaka, Japan.

Wednesday In 1888 the big news in art was that Van Gogh cut off his ear; he was depressed, not least because Gauguin was leaving their lodgings in Arles to escape the winter (and possibly Vincent's company).

Christmas Eve In 1922 *The Truth about Father Christmas*, the first play written for the wireless, by Phyllis M Twigg, became a branch of radio history. In 1974 the Christmas spirit did not extend to *The Beatles*; the Fab Four became four Fab Ones.

Christmas Day It wasn't until 1843 that Mitchell's Olympic Theatre in New York worked out what to do with a stage empty all day: they put on a matinée.

Boxing Day Britain's first ever pantomime was *Harlequin Executed*, at Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre in 1717. Oh no it wasn't!! Oh yes it was!

Sunday In 1904 *Peter Pan* opened in London, with Gerald du Maurier as Captain Hook. In Dublin the first state-subsidised theatre, the Abbey, presented plays by Lady Gregory and Mr Yeats.

JONATHAN SALE



Johnny Vegas: 'Every now and then he ventures into the world and he's very, very bitter'



HERMÈS PARIS

THE NEW ADVENTURES OF HERMÈS IN MANCHESTER

Hermès' new home in Manchester is now open. Hermès, 31 King Street, Manchester. Tel. 0161 834 5331.

PAULINE ETIENNE



NETWORK

The links that will revolutionise PCs

Faster access to the Internet plus cheap and efficient networking could radically alter the way we use computers. By Stephen Pritchard

The home of the future will be as connected, or perhaps even better connected, than most of today's offices, if the predictions of Eric Benhamou, 3Com's president and chief executive officer, prove to be true. 3Com is one of the world leaders in computer networking equipment and, since its purchase of US Robotics last year, in modems, too. According to market research, 3Com is one of the most recognised computing brands in the United States. The company's public perception ranks alongside Hewlett-Packard - and even above that of Microsoft.

3Com was founded in 1979 in California; the company pioneered the ethernet networking standard. Ethernet is now used in offices worldwide, but in 1979, the idea of a PC, let alone a group of PCs that could share information, was very much in its infancy. In the last two decades, computer networks have become big business. Cheap and efficient networking helped the PC take on mainframe computers, and win. More recently, computer networks, in the form of the Internet, have started to capture the public imagination. The Net provides companies such as 3Com with an enormous, uncaptured market.

Computer users' desires for faster, smoother Internet access is a key driver of 3Com's success. The company has been at the forefront of developing more powerful modem technologies. Today's 56k modems are four times as fast as the standard modem three years ago, but they cost less. 3Com is heavily involved in developing devices to connect computers to cable networks, emerging technologies such as DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) and ISDN. It also makes connectors for GSM mobile phones and the RAM wireless data network. "The demand for faster Internet access is driven by many of the same applications we use now: e-mail with attachments, Web browsing, and research," Mr Benhamou says. "Some of the new applications that come to life are streaming audio and video, either video conferencing, or video on demand. There are over 10,000 radio stations on the Internet today broadcasting audio content. With faster connections, it's likely that we will see digital audio sites that stream CD-quality audio into the home in the background while you're surfing the Web or e-mailing."

DSL, including the version BT is currently testing in west London, is an "always-on" technology. Computers are permanently connected to the Internet and there are no time-based charges for that connection. This feature, Mr Benhamou believes, will open up the real potential of the Internet for homes. "The Internet becomes far more compelling with persistent connections," he says.

Faster access, suggests Mr Benhamou, will encourage us to rethink the way we use our computers, and the way they talk to each other. In developed computer markets, such as the United States, Germany and the UK, Benhamou points out, there are already multi-PC households. Sometimes this is



Eric Benhamou predicts falling PC prices will increase the Internet's popularity *Stephen Pritchard*

because one or more family members work from home. Sometimes, households upgrade, but keep their old PCs. Sometimes it stems from adults wanting to reclaim the PC from their kids. 3Com estimates that around 60 per cent of PCs sold through retailers go into homes that already have a computer.

It makes far more sense to connect all the computers in a home to the Internet through a single, powerful connection than by attaching a relatively slow modem to each PC and a phone line. It is also much more economical. BT's trial, for example, costs £30 a month for connection and the hardware. 3Com's solution to sharing that bandwidth - or the comparable technology from cable companies - is through a main-network in the home. Mr Benhamou points to an increasing number of property developers who are building flexible network cables into their house designs in the US and Europe.

3Com is also a key member of consortia that are developing networking technologies that will deliver either 1Mbps or 10Mbps - the same speed as ethernet - over domestic phone cables or mains electric wiring. Mr Benhamou expects products to hit the market in 1999, and prices to start at little more than \$20.

"Home networking can deliver on this tremendous opportunity for multi-PC households to share files, peripherals and an Internet connection via low-cost networking solutions," Mr Benhamou says. "Our HomeConnect brand will deliver products that allow multi-PC connectivity within the home and out to the

Internet, enabling a range of new applications like streaming multimedia."

Mr Benhamou predicts that falling PC prices will help the Internet to reach more homes, but his vision is not restricted to PCs. Away from the business market, developments such as Internet-based broadcasting or video on demand will encourage households to go online. It will also fuel development of Internet access devices that bear little resemblance to conventional PCs.

There are over 10,000 radio stations on the Internet today broadcasting audio content

communications with telephony. The Siemens alliance gives 3Com valuable access to technologies more often associated with telecommunications. The joint venture is developing systems that integrate data, voice and video over single networks.

Phone handsets will become increasingly important ways to access the Internet too. Smartphones with built-in displays offer a low-cost way to connect households, especially to e-mail. Mobile phones will play their part, as will integrated mobile devices. In the US, 3Com has just announced the Palm 7, which has built-in access to the RAM network. In Europe, there will be a version built around GSM, and 3Com expects to develop organisers based around the Blue Tooth wireless communications system that is backed by companies such as Intel, TDK and Nokia.

"The home network becomes the platform for these devices co-existing within the home," says Mr Benhamou. "We anticipate that set-top boxes, smartphones, PCs and devices like the Palm will have network connections that will allow them to share information and Internet access within the home. Think of what happened with electricity," he adds. "No one imagined they'd have hair-driers or toasters when they wired the early homes. But the utility of power caused technology to take advantage of electricity. With an enabling 'utility' like a home network, appliances will spring up to keep consumers more connected to the people and information that matter to them."

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

AN INITIATIVE to develop a new secure method of distributing music over the Internet was announced last week in New York by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA); chief executives of the major US record firms, and representatives of technology firms such as AOL (which now owns CompuServe), Diamond Multimedia, Microsoft, RealNetworks, IBM, RealNetworks, and AT&T.

Work on the "Secure Digital Music Initiative" is set to get under way next year and will address the lack of compatibility between current competing technologies such as Liquid Audio and a2b, as well as the potential piracy problems and lack of copyright control associated with the *de facto* standard MP3 that is established among Net users.

The new standard will aim at developing a means of digital distribution to protect copyrighted material and allow labels and artists to engage in online commerce.

Record company executives said they did not envisage the new format bringing about lower prices.

However, some companies said that the industry response to MP3 is too little and too late. "MP3 is unstoppable. Any initiative now is like launching Betamax two years after VHS has become the standard," said Robert Kohn, the chairman of the independent music company, Goodnoise. "The real solution to piracy is to make music cheaper to buy than it is to steal."

THIS JUDGE presiding over the Microsoft anti-trust trial in Washington said last week that AOL's proposed \$4.2bn buy-out of Netscape Communications and its corporate deal with Sun Microsystems may have an "immediate effect" on the case. Microsoft's lawyers requested that, in light of the proposed merger, the judge re-open the evidence-gathering phase of the trial. Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson said he was

reluctant to allow this, but suggested instead that Microsoft be given a look at any documents gathered by the government in a review of the merger.

"It seems the Department of Justice would be in possession of the operative documents [for the merger] and that Microsoft may have a right to review the terms," Jackson said. "It could have an immediate effect on the definition of the market as we are contemplating here."

In a separate court case, Microsoft said it will appeal against a preliminary injunction requiring it to modify or withdraw some software products while it fights the lawsuit brought against it by Sun over its use of the Java programming language.

TALKS IN London between US Commerce Department and State Department officials and members of Privacy International (PI), a civil rights group based in the United Kingdom and

Washington, about an EU privacy directive, ended in stalemate last week. The directive, set to become law in all EU states, will give individuals control over their personal data and stop database-marketers, websites, credit card companies and others from exchanging personal data with countries that do not provide "adequate" protection of the data.

To prevent US companies' data transfers from being halted by the EU, the Clinton administration has proposed "safe harbours", based on self-regulation privacy guidelines used by commercial sites, such as notifying people about policies on collecting data; providing "opt out" facilities, and disclosing to whom the firm passes on the data. PI said the plans were not satisfactory and that Europe should not bend the rules to accommodate the US.

3Dfx INTERACTIVE, the games chip manufacturer,

announced that it will buy the graphics-card maker STB for \$141m. The deal is expected to be finalised in March. STB's operations will remain based in Richardson, Texas, with the combined company headquartered at 3Dfx's office in San Jose, California.

3Dfx said that William Ogle, the president and chief executive of STB, would join its board. Gordon Campbell will remain as chairman of 3Dfx.

Following the purchase, the company will manufacture entire 3D accelerator cards, rather than just the graphics chips. A new board based on its Voodoo3 chip will be produced. 3Dfx said the deal would provide its customers with a single source for its 3D graphics technology.

Although it intends to carry on supplying chips to Quantum 3D, which makes cards for arcade machines, it will probably stop supplying other PC card producers such as Creative and Diamond.



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Dancer DNA blends an ultra-Darwinist theory with high-speed computer graphics

Morphing to the sound of a hi-hat

Virtual DNA is the inspiration behind a new graphics package. By Matt Jones

Until recently, the only use for a PC in a nightclub was to count the takings at the end of the night. However, with their powerful graphics capabilities, they are now branching out into the entertainment side - not as games machines but alongside the light and laser systems of a club's visual arsenal.

Dancer DNA is a new software package that uses a "virtual DNA" string to create kaleidoscopic virtual lifeforms that mutate and grow in response to music. Hooked up to

a sound system and projector, it provides a mesmerising light-show that is a perfect complement to the sensory overload of the leading London clubs.

What is most surprising, though, is that the inspiration for the software comes not from some hardcore clubber but from the leading evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, who was collaborating on a multimedia CD with Dancer DNA's creators, Nottling Hill Publishing, the electronic publishing company created by Andreas Whittem Smith, the founder and former editor of this newspaper.

In *The Blind Watchmaker*, Dawkins theorised that human

DNA and the binary information storage systems used by a computer were very similar: "Instead of just the two states 1 and 0, the information technology of living cells uses four states... There is very little difference, in principle, between a two-state binary information technology like ours, and a four-state information technology like that of the living cell."

Dancer DNA blends this ultra-Darwinist theory with high-speed computer graphics. Just about everything is customisable, from a creature's rate of morphing and spin to the threshold at which the effects take hold. A frequency analyser

allows the user to specify different parts of the music that it responds to (drums, vocals, bass, etc) to trigger different effects, so the package can be programmed to accompany certain tracks. Dance music, with its defined peaks and troughs, is the ideal soundtrack to Dancer DNA; although it gave interesting results with many other genres, including heavy metal and country and western - as demonstrated at a recent show at the ICA in London.

There are 15 species provided on the CD, with more available from the Dancer DNA website. A few mouse clicks creates a "genospace" for your species and gets them dancing

to whatever music you have in your CD drive. Customising the species couldn't be easier - the cut'n'paste method ensures that new strains can be easily created and mutated.

Dancer DNA has already strutted its virtual stuff at the Blue Note, Orb and the End clubs in London, as well as on the BBC's *Clothes Show*, and is set to perform alongside New Order and Underworld at the Alexandra Palace New Year's Eve spectacular. Entertainment from evolutionary theory - who would have thought it?

Dancer DNA
www.dancerdna.com, £19.99; order on 01634 297123

The case of the empty e-mail

THERE IT was, again, in my e-mail inbox. For the fourth time in a few weeks, here was an e-mail with no subject or message text.

Like most people, I'm not fond of spammers. In fact, they drive me nuts. My old Internet connection was usage-based, meaning that the bill went up for every piece of spam received or transmitted through the guker.com domain. When spammers hijacked my mail server earlier this year, I got downright testy.

As competition has driven down the price of spam software and mailing lists, the quality of spam has fallen tremendously, if you can accept the notion of "quality" and "spam" in the same phrase.

Spammers who misspell their pitch - in the subject line, no less - have become routine. Recent offerings include "anrodesiac", "debt to high", "risk feel", "for are clients", "frequent asked questions", "not address's", and "co-branding program". Worse, lately, not a few spammers who clog bandwidth with hundreds of thousands of missives have somehow neglected to actually include a message.

What I wonder prompts a person to go to the effort of buying spam software, sign up for an Internet account that will be suspended immediately after the first spam (at a loss of set-up charges and first month's fees), and then get to include a message? Are a few of us in the spam community running a few

packets short of a datagram?

So, to get back to my tale, here it was, the fourth subject-less, text-less message in a row. I figured it was spam, for sure. Curiously, this latest one had an attachment "notice.htm", which contained the following:

```
PGh0bWw+PHNjcmVwdCBs
YW5ndWFnT0lamF2YXNjc
mlwdC1-bmFzZT0id2ueHni
Ozwv2NyaXB0PgOKPGZyy
W11c2VOitUvd3M9jIewJsw
qj4BznhbWUgc3lPSinclR
wOISveHpsMy55ZWFoLm5i
dC1gbmFzZT0iG4elgbm9
yZXNpemulg2Nybzxsaw5n
PW5vPgOKPGZyYW1IIHNY
z0laHR0cDovL3d3dy56aGF
uamihbmcuZ2QvY2vbmV0
rMieC5ndG0iIG5vcnVzaXp
IHnjcm9sbGluzZ1ubz4NC]
vvZrJhbWVzZQo+PC9odG
1sPg=
```

Why, I wondered, would you bother to name something as if it were a Web page, attach it, and e-mail it if all it contained was garbage?

But, was it? ASCII text is encoded by a byte - an 8-bit binary number than can encode up to 256 characters. Since there are only 52 lowercase and 26 uppercase in an ASCII set, most true random garbage mainly contains the weird punctuation and figures that are encoded by the other 144.

But this missive contains mainly letters, along with a few other characters. Letters and "regular"



CHRIS GULKER
Spamming is one of the curses of the Internet age, and often seems one of the most pointless, too

punctuation are "safe" characters, that is to say, they probably don't represent binary commands. Many Internet transport protocols require that data be transmitted as only "safe" characters, lest a router or computer interpret them as a command to, say, reset or shut down.

Could this be a kind of encoding? The plot thickens!

My modern e-mail client hides most of the stuff that's attached to an e-mail message like Internet headers and MIME specs. Thoughtfully, it has a "View source code" menu item that allows the user to see all the gory details. "View source" revealed the line:

"Content-Transfer-Encoding: Base 64."

Aha! Base 64 is another encoding scheme that uses

safe characters. Now all I needed was a Base 64 decoder. A quick visit to a freeware/shareware site revealed nothing, since most modern e-mail packages have built-in decoders (and who knows why mine wasn't kicking in?). Fortunately, Sherlock, my Mac's find-it program, turned up a folder called "YA Base 64" on an old, long-neglected hard drive connected to one of the oldest computers gathering dust on guker.com's LAN.

"YA" in freeware parlance stands for "Yet Another". Freeware programmers, God bless their souls, are like any other community - they have vogues and fads. Whenever a bunch of programmers tackle the same topic, like decoder utilities, they not infrequently name the result "YA-something" as in YA-Newswatcher for a Yet Another Usenet news reader. The program's creation date was 1996. Vintage software! I wondered if it would run.

It did. But when I dropped "notice.htm" on it, nothing happened. Back to the drawing board.

Inspiration struck - notice.htm was devoid of the content encoding string and other markers in the source e-mail. Decoder programs rely on markers - words like "BEGIN" or "Cut Here" to find the bits to decode. I saved the e-mail to disk, and dropped it on the decoder - a new "notice.htm" file appeared immediately. I dropped it on my browser.

cg@gulkher.com

To: hamish@talk21.com
From: mum@talk21.com
Subject: RE: greetings

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whether to stay in touch while travelling
or to tell friends when to meet down the pub.
And if you don't have direct Internet access,
you can log on at any cyber cafe,
library or 'IT For All' centre. (To find the
closest place, call 'IT For All' on 0800 456 567.)
Register now at
www.talk21.com

IT for All

Are you surfing comfortably?

For the festive season, I want to give all of my readers a special present: a universal remote control for your website. Whether you are channel surfing or web surfing, a remote control can make the experience more convenient and more comfortable.

With the telly, a remote control is a small device with buttons which is used to change the content on the big screen. On the Web, the remote is a small browser window that contains links to change the content in the main browser window.

If you have any problems with this code, or you would like to see a working example of the remote control, visit: <http://www.webbedenviro.com/examples/49.html>.

To set up your remote control, the basic idea is to use JavaScript to open a new window and then place an HTML

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

file in it with the links that make up the remote. The remote is opened from the main browser window which, in this example, is set up as two horizontal frames.

The top frame (menu) will have the link used to open the remote control and the bottom frame (content) will be what the remote control targets its links into.

```
<FRAMESET ROWS="50,">
<FRAME SRC="menu.html" NAME="menu">
<FRAME SRC="p1.html" NAME="content">
</FRAMESET>
```

Opening the Remote Control
Using the JavaScript open method, we create a function called remoteOpen() which is placed in a <SCRIPT LANGUAGE="JavaScript"> ...</SCRIPT> in the <HEAD> of the menu.html file.

```
var remote = null;
function remoteOpen() {
    remote =
    window.open("remote.html",
    "remote", "width=100,height=250");
```

When activated, this function

will create a new window called "remote" with a width of 100 pixels and a height of 250 pixels. The new window will contain the file remote.html which is a run-of-the-mill HTML file.

Unlike a standard window, however, the remote window will not

have menus, browser navigation (ie, back and forward arrows), the current URL listing or anything other than the border around the window. The border—called the "chrome"—does include the standard close-window button in the upper right corner, allowing the visitor to close the remote at any time, but all of the 100x250 area is reserved for the file being loaded into the remote.

Notice also that the remoteOpen() function gives the remote focus—this is, it will

place it top of any other windows on the screen. Otherwise, if the remote window were already open, but covered by another window, it would

simply reload without coming to the front. This can be very confusing to visitors to your site if they hit the link to reopen the remote and nothing appears. Speaking of which...

To open the remote, we have to run the remoteOpen() function. There are several ways to do this, including having it open automatically when the main browser window opens. However, it is a good idea to include a link that will allow visitors to reopen the remote if they close it or to bring the remote to the front if it disappears behind another window.

```
<A HREF="#" onclick="remoteOpen()">Remote </A>
```

Targeting Links Back to the Main Window

The visitor can close the remote control by using the remote window's built-in close button, but what happens if the visitor leaves your site without closing the remote? Anything that you could put into an HTML document, but you need to keep in mind that it has to fit into the

dimensions you defined in the remoteOpen() function. If you want links from the remote to appear in the main window, simply target the links to the content frame.

```
<A HREF="p1.html"
TARGET="content">Page 1</A>
<A HREF="p2.html"
TARGET="content">Page 2</A>
<A HREF="p3.html"
TARGET="content">Page 3</A>
```

This function first checks to see if the remote is open. If it is, the function closes the window. Place an onUnload event handler into the <BODY> tag of menu.html.

```
<BODY onUnload="remoteClose()">
```

Now, when the visitor goes to a new website, and the menu.html file is unloaded, the remote will automatically disappear.

But wait! The universal

remote is good for much, much, more!

Sidebar Navigation: The simplest use of the remote control is to replace the sidebar navigation often used in websites. Check out the real cool remote in Entropy8 (<http://www.entropy8.com/>).

Web Tour: If you have a page of your favourite websites, you might consider placing them into a remote control.

Control Pad: You can also make the remote into a control pad to add functionality to the site.

Kairos (<http://english.tu.edu/kairos/3.2>) uses a remote control with two frames: the left frame has the links while the right frame can display information about the journal, search engine links, and links to other materials.

Season's greetings. Enjoy your new toy.

E-mail Jason at indiewebdesign@mindspring.com

WEBSITES

BILL PANNIFER



Keeping track of Santa
www.santatracker.com/html/santatrack.html
Santa's progress is here observed with military precision. Departure from the North Pole on 24 December will be video-monitored, the reindeers radar-tracked, and meteorological reports constantly updated.

The site features real-time sleigh systems evaluation and even a special night-vision facility. Special flashing alerts will warn viewers as he zeros in to make his home deliveries.

Jollier, if less topical, thrills at Claus Com's animated theme park (www2.claus.com), where kids anxiously awaiting their stocking can check their personal "naughty" or "nice" rating in advance. Another

hopeful (www.santa-claus.com) chuckles away while claiming to have been online since 1972. Meanwhile, Lycos offers a Java Race Your Reindeers game (www.lycos.co.uk/webguides/special/xmas/race/index.htm).

Simplify the festive haul
www.newdream.org/holiday Consumptuous Christmas is under attack at this site: the US produces five million extra tons of rubbish over the festive period and this site suggests creating less waste.

Visitors send in unusual, ecologically sound gift ideas—"my parents sponsored a penguin in my name at the zoo"—and there are proposals for gifts of time rather than money, as well as some rather strained

alternative carols. Also on patrol is a Commercialism Cop to bust premature seasonal mania, such as the Maryland shop which put up its tree in July.

Links lead to other recycled presents, such as the ever-popular ornaments made from freebie AOL CDs (www.neosoft.com/alkid), which this year include a Nativity Scene and a Jingle Bell Necklace.

Frankenfurby is promised
www.game.com/furby/index.html Christmas is a time of worldwide communication, and where Esperanto failed, the Furby could well succeed. The official site for this year's hard-to-get toy includes a Furby dictionary—with sound clips (happy = noo-

loo; tickle = oee-tye; maybe, oddly enough, = mee-beay)—and the chance to send a festive shot of one of the furry pests posing in front of the Taj Mahal.

As no one actually believes in Santa anymore, this year's dose of disillusionment could perhaps come from the Furby Autopsy Site (www.phobe.com/furby), which gives instructions for unpeeling skin, ears and

carapace, right down to the motor and CPU. One specimen is being kept on ice before being modified, using electric cooker parts, and resurrected as Frankenfurby. "We find him much more amusing dead than alive," muse the webmeisters.

Praying by fingers
www.cofe.anglican.org

Not much sign of Christmas here as yet. The self-proclaimed "young and modest", though well-designed, official site includes a brief history of the church and its organisation; key statistics; and will soon offer sections ranging from major social issues to planning one's own funeral. As well as a daily online service, there is also personal advice on "How to

pray", with suggestions for using each finger to represent different prayer goals—digital worship in its most literal sense. But some of the ideas sound a bit New Agey, focusing on a feather is recommended. Links lead to individual diocesan and other sites; for more of E-owes and discussion try Anglicans Online (anglican.org/online).

Iraq's touch of peace
christmas.com/worldview

Click on a map for accounts of

celebrations worldwide, at this newly enlarged section of this otherwise elf-infested site.

Lots of fascinating detail—Icelanders, it seems, believe in 13 Santas, all descended from the mythical Gryla the Ogre. And interesting festive grub includes

foggy pudding and Finnish kaffi bulla to raw oysters.

Too often country links lead to a dead end—"We are currently looking for contributions for Myanmar (Burma)".

But there remains much multicultural variety, as well as some universal aspirations: "In Iraq... after the service, the bishop blesses one person with a truck. Then that person touches the person next to him or her. Finally everyone has the 'touch of peace' on Christmas Day."

But nothing, of course, about US cruise missiles to celebrate the start of Ramadan.

Send interesting, quirky or, at a pinch, cool site recommendations to websites@dircon.co.uk

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Are you looking for a job in which you get to meet people from a variety of backgrounds? If you are, the Social Survey Division of ONS has vacancies for interviewers in the following areas: Birmingham, Crawley, Liverpool, Manchester, Reading, Swindon, Teesside and all London Boroughs.

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Send a postcard with your name, address and telephone number to SSD Recruitment & Training Unit, Office for National Statistics (D1/08), 1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2QQ.

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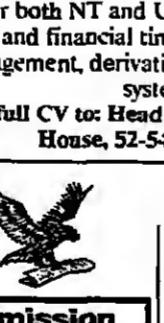
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GOLDERS GREEN
ABC (0181-455 1724) ♦ Golders Green The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm

GREENWICH
CINEMA (0181-283 0101) BR: Greenwich Antz 1.10pm Elizabeth 2.45pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Mulan 12.55pm, The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-9020413) ♦ Besize Park Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6pm Out of Sight 8.10pm, The Parent Trap 2.20pm, 3.25pm, 8.10pm, The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

HARROW
SAFARI (0181-426 0303) ♦ Harrow-on-the-Hill/Narrow & Wealdstone Dol Sajeak Raksha 8.45pm Fire 1.30pm, 5pm, 7pm Kudrat 1.30pm, 5pm The Soldier (Asian Film) 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ♦ Harrow on the Hill Antz 11.40am, 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm Babe: Pig in the City 10.40am, 11.10am, 1.10pm, 4.40pm, 10.40pm, 4.45pm, 7.25pm, 9.50pm Rush Hour 11am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 10pm Small Soldiers 10.05am, 12.55pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm

HOLLOWAY

ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Holloway Road/Archway Antz 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig in the City 1pm, 3.05pm, 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 8.15pm Mulan 1.20pm, The Negotiator 1.45pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Out of Sight 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 8pm Rush Hour 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 3.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.05pm Small Soldiers 12.35pm

ILFORD

ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Gants Hill Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm The Mask of Zorro 1.50pm, 5pm, 8.10pm The Negotiator 8pm Out of Sight 8.15pm The Parent Trap 11.55am, 2.30pm, 5.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10am, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

KILBURN

TRICYLE THEATRE (0171-328 1000) ♦ Kilburn Dancing at Lighhouse 6.30pm Mulan 1.30pm, 4pm Out of Sight 8.45pm

KINGSTON

ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Antz 6.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm, 3.25pm The Parent Trap 2pm, 5.10pm, 8pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL

ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Highgate Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm, The Mask of Zorro 11.30am, 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Out of Sight 8.25pm The Parent Trap 2pm, 5.10pm, 8pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 8.30pm

NUNHEAD

ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Nunhead Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm The Mask of Zorro 1.50pm, 5pm, 8.10pm The Negotiator 8pm Out of Sight 8.15pm The Parent Trap 11.55am, 2.30pm, 5.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10am, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

PURLEY

ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Babe: Pig in the City 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6pm The Parent Trap 2.05pm, 5.05pm, 8.05pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm Rush Hour 6.20pm, 8.35pm

PUTNEY

ABC (0870 9020401) ♦ Putney Bridge/BR: Putney Antz 6pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.30pm Out of Sight 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Richmond The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

RODEN STUDIO (08705 050007) BR: Roden Studio (08705 050007) BR: Wimborne/BR: Wimborne South Wimborne Antz 1.30pm, 3.40pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.40pm Dancing At Lighhouse 7pm, 9.20pm Mulan 1.20pm The Negotiator 8.40pm Out of Sight 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 10.20am, 12.20am Good Burger 10.20am The Mask of Zorro 11am, 2pm, 5.05pm, 8pm Mulan 1.15pm, 3.30pm Out of Sight 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.05pm, 2.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 11.45am, 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Small Soldiers 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm

RONFORD

ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Ronford Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm The Parent Trap 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

SCIDUP

ABC (0541-555 131) BR: Scidup Antz 6.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 4pm Elizabeth 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

STAPLES CORNER

VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewood, Antz 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm Out of Sight 9pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

SURBITON

ABC (0541-555 131) BR: Surbiton Antz 6.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm The Mask of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Negotiator 8.10pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

LONDON NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 1253) ♦ The Death of Don Juan 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm, 9pm, 11pm

BRISTOL

CUBE (0114-907 4191) Antz (PG) 4pm Out of Sight (15) 7pm, 9.30pm

WATERSHED

(0171-925 3845) Dancing at Lighhouse (PG) 3pm, 8.30pm Elizabeth (15) 8pm Harry Potter (18) 4pm

CAMBRIDGE

ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Elizabeth (15) 4.30pm, 9.15pm It's a Wonderful Life (U) 2pm, 6.50pm

CARDIFF

NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) Insomnia (18) 7.30pm Snake Eyes (15) 8pm

CHESTER

NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) Babe: Pig in the City (U) 1.30pm, 4pm Elizabeth (15) 8.15pm Ever After (PG) 6pm Mulan (U) 3.45pm

NORTHAMPTON

CINEMA (01603-622047) Dr Dolittle (PG) 2.30pm It's a Wonderful Life (U) 8pm Something About Mary (15) 5.45pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Antz 4.20pm, 8.35pm Babe: Pig in the City 2.10pm, 6.20pm Out of Sight 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 8.25pm, 8.45pm Small Soldiers 2.25pm

OEOON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill/Brixton/Clympham Common Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm The Mask of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Negotiator 8.10pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 8.25pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS
Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence.

THE PIT: The Two Gentlemen Of Verona Shakespeare's witty comedy is directed by Edward Hall. In rep tonight 7.30pm, ends 28 Jan. Barbican Theatre: E5-E26. The Pit: E11-E18.50, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). BR/B Barbican/Moorgate.

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURES HOUSE (555 3366) BR: Stratford East Babe: Pig in the City 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

THEATRE WEST END

COTTESLOE: Guiding Star Jonathan Harvey's new play gives a taut account of the life of Hillsborough disaster survivor. In rep tonight 7.30pm, 150 mins. Olivier & Lyttelton: E8-E27. Cottesloe: £12-£18. Day seats from 10am. South Bank SE1 (0171-452 3000). BR/Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY v THE BARBican: The Tempest Adrian Noble directs Shakespeare's romance drama. In rep tonight 7.15pm, 165 mins.

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THEATRE WEST END

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call

EVE ENSLER'S The Vagina Monologues was a huge hit on Broadway last year. Glenn Close, Winona Ryder (right), Whoopi Goldberg and Susan Sarandon were bagged for the US gala performance, though it's unconfirmed who will play London's gala show (14 Feb). Drawn from the responses of 200 women to the question "If it could talk, what would it say?", this is, according to *The Village Voice*, "the most outrageous and important feminist event since the bra burnings". King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper St, London N1 (0171-226 1916) opens 26 Jan, £12

Last Call

AMERICAN SKATE-PUNK band The Offspring have the nod of approval from the Californian skateboarding scene, and it seems their appeal extends to colder climates, too: the London date of their tour (Brixton Academy, 15 Jan) is already sold out. Fast becoming MTV favourites, it's their high-octane, spiky punk anthems that keep fans moshing. Barrowlands, Glasgow (0141-339 8833) 10 Jan; Rock City, Nottingham (0115-912 9122) 12 Jan; Manchester Apollo (0161-242 2560) 13 Jan; Town & Country Club, Leeds (0113-280 0100) 14 Jan

First Call

AMERICAN

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MONDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
5.30 Chris Moyles. **9.00** Simon Mayo. **12.00** Kevin Greening.
2.00 Mark Radcliffe. **4.00** Dave Pearce. **6.00** Lamaco Live - the Christmas Party. **12.00** The Breezeblock. **2.00** Emma B. **4.00** - **6.30** Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(89.9-92.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan. **9.30** Ken Bruce. **12.00** Jimmy Young. **2.00** Ed Stewart.
5.05 Johnnie Walker. **7.00** Humphrey Lyte. **8.00** Big Band Christmas Special. **8.30** The New Jazz Standards. **9.30** The Rock 'n' Roll Years. **10.30** Richard Allinson. **12.00** Katrina Leskanich. **3.00** - **4.00** Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masters.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Georges Bizet.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Divas.
4.45 Music to Die For.
5.00 A Medieval Christmas.
5.30 Music Rooms.
6.00 - **6.45** Discovering Music with Leonard Slatkin.
7.00 Christmas Cocktails. See Pick of the Day.
7.30 Performance on 3. Another chance to hear ten of the most memorable concerts of the 1998 BBC Proms season at the Royal Albert Hall, London. Prom 54, given at the end of August, contained a Proms first: Elgar's dramatic and expressive oratorio 'The Apostles', a broad musical canvas richly coloured by his imagination. The life of Christ is treated obliquely to focus on the consequences for his followers, and the work ends with a visionary meditation on the Ascension. BBC Symphony Chorus and Orchestra/Andrew Davis, Elgar: The Apostles. Felicity Lott, soprano (Virgin), Catherine Wyn-Rogers, mezzo (Mary Magdalene), (R) 3.40 Postscript Comedian and broadcaster Rainer Hersch pre-

PICK OF THE DAY

A QUESTION that seems to vex people more than ever before is How to Be Happy (8pm RT, right), though it's not clear if this means we are less happy than we used to be, or whether we just have raised expectations of happiness. Here, a number of people, including a Bosnian exile and a pair of piano tuners, talk about their own levels of happiness and ask whether it is

to be found in our work, music, chocolate or increased levels of serotonin in the brain. Perhaps some people are just born happy. A sure shortcut to happiness is Christmas Cocktails 17pm RT, a seasonal compilation of dance music of the Thirties and Forties, tonight featuring the Dorsey Brothers, Chick Webb, Django Reinhardt and others.

ROBERT HANKS



sents five personal and idiosyncratic studies of the music of our century. 1: 'The First Taboo'. Holding the book upside down: the Second Viennese School and atonality.

10.00 Voices, 'Christmas with Gerald Finley'. Gerald Finley introduces and sings his favourite Christmas songs in conversation with Ian Burnside. Including music by Wolf, Grieg, Poulenc and Sterndale-Bennett, plus Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas'. Gerald Finley (baritone), Julius Drake (piano).

10.45 Mixing It. It was Terry Riley's composition 'In C' that brought minimalism to the mainstream. In the 34 years that followed, Riley has embraced - and been embraced by - a whole universe of music. Tonight, he joins Mark Russell and Mark Sandall in the studio to talk about three pieces that have made a big impact on him.

11.30 Christmas Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Johann Sebastian Bach. (R) **1.00** - **6.00** Through the Night.

RADIO 4

(92.4-94.8MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS: Start the Week.

9.30 Carols for Choirs.

9.45 Serial: Scraps with Iannucci.

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: Snapshots from the New South Africa.

11.30 My Gaiety Girls.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Top Brain 1998.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.15 NEWS: Afternoon Play: Mistletoe's Christmas.

3.00 Money Box Live: 071 580 4444.

3.30 Beating the System.
3.45 Colonel Clay - Master of Disguise.

4.00 NEWS: Food Programme.

4.30 Turning World.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.15 Front Row. Francine Stock with the arts programme, including the hunt for the best Christmas single ever.

7.45 Under One Roof. The first of three five-part dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories. With Janet Maw, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White (1/5).

8.00 NEWS: How to Be Happy.

An excursion into positive thinking, led by Carole Rosen. With professor of pharmacology Susan Greenfield, historian Theodore Zeldin, novelist Wendy Perriam, piano tuners Hector and Janet Ruggins and Ben Renshaw and his happiness project. See Pick of the Day.

8.30 Analysis: Buy Now, Pay Later. Andrew Dilnot asks how far we can really afford the debts we incur and whether we are storing up trouble for the future.

9.00 NEWS: A Wolf to the North: Fear. Wildlife writer Jim Crumley

travels north through Alaska in search of the Arctic wolf and all it symbolises.

9.30 Start the Week. Jeremy Paxman sets the cultural agenda for the week with guests including Professor Nancy Rothwell of Manchester University's School of Biological Sciences, who will be delivering this year's Royal Institution Christmas Lectures.

10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Chosen for Christmas. Five stars read their chosen seasonal tale. 1: Patricia Routledge reads 'Winter' from 'Cider with Rosie' by Laurie Lee.

11.00 Radio 4 Appeal. The vicar of St Martin in the Fields speaks on behalf of St Martin in the Fields, a charity which helps the homeless and those in need throughout the British Isles.

11.30 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. **8.00 Henry Kelly**.

12.00 Requests. **2.00 Concerto**.

3.00 Jamie Crick. **6.30 Newsnight**. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. **9.00 Evening Concert**.

11.00 Alan Mann. **2.00 Concerto**.

3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (121.5, 119.7-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)

6.00 Jeremy Clark. **9.30 Ross Williams**.

10.00 Peter McNeil.

11.00 Grace.

12.00 James Merritt.

1.00 - 6.00 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)

1.00 Newsdesk.

1.30 Seven Days.

1.45 Wild Tales.

2.00 Newsday.

2.30 On Screen.

3.00 World Business Report.

3.30 The Greatest City on Earth.

4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.45 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming today.

5.47 - 6.00 Shipping Forecast.

5.47 - 6.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE

(693, 909kHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Brian Hayes.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscoe and Co.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 The Whistle Blower.

2: Simon Mann goes behind the scenes to talk to the man in black.

How do football referees cope with the intense pressure of their job?

8.00 Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Featuring commentary from the Valley, where Charlton Athletic take on Aston Villa in the FA Cup semi-final. Plus all the latest news from across the continent in the European football round-up.

10.00 Late Night Live. With Steve LeFevre. incl 10.30 Sports Round-up. 11.00 News.

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TALK RADIO

6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Mean.

9.00 Scott Chisholm.

12.00 Lorraine Kelly.

1.00 Alan Raeburn.

4.00 Peter Deacon.

7.00 Alan Farnham.

10.00 Ian Collins.

1.00 Ian Collins.

4.00 Ian Collins.

